Accessibility | Dreamweaver | Flash | Photoshop | ASP | PHP | SQL

ISSUE 98

WebDesigner

THE ULTIMATE RESOURCE FOR WEB DESIGN

WINDOWS MAC X

ACCESSIBILITY SPECIAL

BUILD AMAZING SITES THAT WORK

- Create sites for everyone without compromising on quality
- Discover how you can build visitor-friendly sites to die for
- Expert accessibility tips to help you build better sites

DREAMWEAVER TIPS

CLEAN UP MESSY WEB SITE CODE

We reveal how you can tidy up bloated HTML with Dreamweaver's functions

50 PAGES OF ADVANCED TUTORIALS

VECTOR ART

CREATE VECTOR ART IN FLASH

Fashion amazing 3D images using Flash's drawing tools

PHOTOSHOP DESIGN

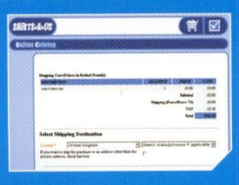
ADVANCED IMAGE COMPOSITION

Harness Photoshop's functions to create incredible images in no time

IS YOUR FREE CD MISSING?
ASK YOUR NEWSAGENT FOR ONE NOW

FANCY A TIPPLE?

Find out how Tiger Beer revived its fortunes with an ultra-cool new Web site



MAKE MONEY ON THE WEB

Add the finishing touches to your Actinic site and prepare to start selling online

"excite, enthuse and inform"

ISSUE 98 £5.99
HIGHBURY 9 771741 913003 98

WebFusion

For Resellers

Looking for a true all-in-one solution?

WebFusion makes hosting simple for resellers.

As a Reseller, simply put, the easier we can make your job, the more jobs you can handle. And for serious web hosting that's seriously easy, flexible and resilient, look no further than WebFusion for Resellers.

You'll have access to all the tools to develop and manage your own web hosting business by creating, naming and branding your own hosting packages. You'll have access to 'MyServerWorld™' 10.0, a tailor made and totally customisable control panel giving complete visibility and access over your accounts. You can watch and adjust the features and level of service your customers get, manage emails, databases and execute SQL queries, and choose how much you charge all through a few clicks of a button.

WebFusion have been providing innovative web services for 9 years and are part of Tier 1 ISP PIPEX, so you'll have all the experience and infrastructure behind you to sell with confidence. We take care of the servers and network maintenance and security, so you and your customers get complete peace of mind. If you need it, you'll also receive free and unlimited 24/7/365 technical support and a full money back guarantee.

When you consider the many features listed below, you see that WebFusion is the serious simple solution for resellers.

Feature rich really means feature rich

- Host unlimited domains and unlimited resold accounts
- Completely customisable with your branding
- Total control over each resold account
- 1000MB of web space per reseller account
- Unlimited POP3 mail boxes
- Windows and Linux
- ASP, PHP4, Java enabled
- 10 MySQL Databases per Account
- 25 Extra FTP Accounts Per Account
- 500 Sub Domains per Account
- Webalizer graphical statistics

To see the full specification, visit www.WebFusion.co.uk, or call us on 0870 333 0287 today.

PIPEX broadband; the professional's choice of broadband Internet connection.
See what we mean at www.WebFusion.co.uk

PIPEX®

WebFusion

For Businesses

Looking for a true all-in-one solution?

WebFusion makes hosting simple for business users.

If web sales are currently – or will be – a serious part of your business, but you also want web hosting to be seriously easy, then look no further than WebFusion.

WebFusion have over 9 years experience of enabling business to get on-line and are part of Tier 1 ISP PIPEX, so you'll have all the experience and infrastructure behind you to operate your business successfully on the web. Our feature rich packages are built around user needs and include 'MyServerWorld™', a tailor made control panel giving you complete access and visibility over your hosting account. All business services are designed to make growing your business on the web effortless, with easily upgradeable packages so you never have to over commit your budgets.
We offer same hour set-up and there's also free 24/7 telephone and email support if you want it. It all makes WebFusion the seriously simple solution for businesses.

Feature rich really means feature rich

- 5GB of web space and 20GB data transfer
- Unlimited Email boxes and aliases
- My SQL databases and multiple FTP accounts
- PHP4 & ASP scripting
- Front page extensions
- Free Sitebuilder to get you going
- Webalizer site statistics package
- Webmail
- Sub domains
- Optional broadband
- Spam filtering and email forwarding
- Mailing groups and Auto responders
- All accounts are upgradeable to include e-commerce
- Specific e-commerce package comes with Miva already installed

Fully functioning hosting packages start from £19.99 per month or £199.00 plus VAT per year and we offer a full money back guarantee.
See more at www.WebFusion.co.uk

Get online today, visit
www.WebFusion.co.uk,
or call us on 0870 333 0259 today.

PIPEX broadband; the professional's choice of broadband Internet connection.
See what we mean at www.WebFusion.co.uk

PIPEX®

www.heartinternet.co.uk email: sales@heartinternet.co.uk

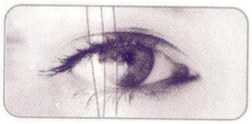
heart internet

Prolongs Active Hosting™

Web Hosting

Free Hosting Account

- No Purchase Necessary
- Real Time Online Activation
- No Pop-ups or Advertisements
- Commercial Use Allowed
- 100MB Data Transfer FREE!



All Features of the Starter Professional Excludes Free Technical Support.

Starter Professional

- 2500 MB Web Space
- 10 GB Data Transfer
- 1000 Mail Boxes, Autoresponders & Mailing Lists
- Graphical Visitor Statistics
- The Worlds Most Advanced Hosting Control Panel
- Over 20 Free CGI Scripts
- Free Technical Support & Data Transfer
- PLUS MUCH MORE!

Only £2.49 per Month

Totally FREE WEB HOSTING

- NO PURCHASE NECESSARY
- NO POP-UPS OR ADVERTISEMENTS
- COMMERCIAL USE ALLOWED
- REAL TIME ACTIVATION

THAT'S RIGHT - TOTALLY FREE with no hidden catches!

Domain Names

at Heart ...you're in total control!

£7.99.COM DOMAINS per year

9p .CO.UK DOMAINS per year*

- No Hidden Fees
- Multiple Web Forwarding
- Single and Catch all Email
- Holding Page Wizard
- Domain "For Sale" Page
- Tag and Name Changing
- Modify Contact info
- PLUS MUCH MORE!

*plus Nominet fees

FREE Features

Every account includes the following free features:-

Best Bundle

- £300 of Software
- 450 Web Site Templates
- 300 Banner and Flash Banner Templates
- OVER 100,000 Photos, Web Art and Clipart

Resellers

- The UK's Best Reseller Package
- Host Unlimited Domains
- Accounts Setup in Real Time
- Own Branded Control Panel
- Unlimited Data Transfer
- Generic Secure Server
- Generic Name Servers
- Total Real Time Control
- Customer Management Database
- Create Your Own Web Hosting Packages
- Unique Order Integration

£29.99 per Month

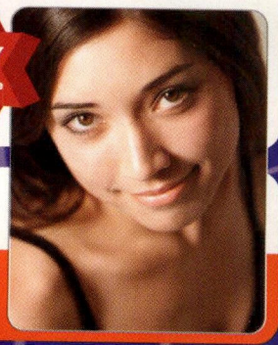
setup in real time

Ideal for web designers, developers and entrepreneurs!

Fully Inclusive

- 100% Uptime Guarantee
- Complete Online Control
- Fast Free 24 x 7 Customer Support
- World Class Data Centre
- Multiple Connections to the Internet

MONEY BACK Guarantee



email us:
sales@heartinternet.co.uk

www.heartinternet.co.uk
Tel: 0845 644 7750

VIRUS SCANNING | CONTROL PANEL | 100% UPTIME GUARANTEED | TRANSFER YOUR DOMAIN | SITE BUILDER FREE | FREE WEB TOOLS | DELL SERVERS & CISCO NETWORK | RESELLER PROFESSIONAL

Loads More! Check Out Our Website

www.heartinternet.co.uk

All major credit and debit cards welcome. Prices exclude VAT. E&OE

WebDesigner

Highbury Entertainment Limited, Paragon House,
St Peters Road, Bournemouth BH1 2JS
Tel: +44 (0) 1202 299900
Fax: +44 (0) 1202 299955
Web site: www.paragon.co.uk

CUSTOMER SERVICES
If you have a problem with any aspect of this magazine – from competition enquiries to damaged copies or missing covermounts, please contact our Customer Services Team on 01202 200200, or email subs@paragon.co.uk

MAGAZINE TEAM
Group Editor Thomas Watson
webdesigner@paragon.co.uk
01202 209379
Managing Editor Dan Slingsby
Group Art Editor Nick Trent
Senior Designer Nigel Griffiths
Sub Editor Colleen Johnson
Staff Writer Mark Billen

CONTRIBUTORS
Rachel Andrew, Peter Buick, George Cairns, Rob Clymo, Robert Firebaugh, Lee Groombridge, Mark Shufflebottom, Colin Smith, James Thornton, Neil Withnall, Todd Yard

COVER ART: I Love Dust (www.ilovedust.com)

ADVERTISING
Advertising Sales Manager Leylah Honeyborne
(01202 200223)
leylah@paragon.co.uk

Sales Executive Mark Rankine
(01202 209362)
markran@paragon.co.uk

Production Co-ordinator Jo Spick

Senior Ad Copy Controller Lorraine Troughton

Ad Copy Controllers Caroline Bradford, Eleanor Clark, Lauren Deans, Rachel Evans

COVERDISC SUPPORT
Coverdisc Support
Having difficulty with our coverdisc? See the disc pages for information
Digital Projects Manager Lee Groombridge
Multimedia Editor Matt Budd

PRODUCTION & DISTRIBUTION
Production Manager Dave Osborne
Bureau Manager Chris Rees
Scanning/prepress Wesley Neil
Circulation Manager Tim Harris
Tel: +44 (0) 1202 200200
Fax: +44 (0) 1202 200217

INTERNATIONAL LICENSING
Web Designer is available for licensing overseas. For details, please contact:
International Manager Cathy Blackman
Tel: +44 (0) 1202 200205
Fax: + 44 (0) 1202 200235
Email: cathb@paragon.co.uk

DIRECTORS
Editorial Director Damian Butt
Production Director Jane Hawkins
Circulation and Marketing Director Kevin Petley
Advertising Director Peter Cleall
Art Director Mark Kendrick
Managing Director Mark Simpson

SUBSCRIPTIONS
Subscription rates (13 issues) = £38

Printed by Wyndeham Heron, The Bentall Complex, Colchester Road, Heybridge, Maldon, Essex, CM9 4NW

All text and layout remains the copyright of Highbury Entertainment Limited. *Web Designer* cannot accept responsibility for any unsolicited material or transparencies. *Web Designer* is fully independent and its views are not those of any company mentioned herein. All copyrights and trademarks are recognised and all images are used for the purpose of criticism and review only. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. *Web Designer* can accept no responsibility for inaccuracies or complaints arising from adverts within the magazine.

© 2004 Highbury Entertainment Limited
Web Designer
ISSN 1741-9131

Highbury Entertainment Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Highbury House Communications PLC. Registered in England. Registered Number 2483576. Registered Office: The Publishing House, 1-3 Highbury Station Road, Islington, London N1 1SE.

WELCOME

PARADISE ISLAND

Come with me on a journey, a flight of fancy designed to prove a point. Imagine, if you will, a beautiful land – a utopian dream where everyone is happy, where the grass is most definitely greener. This land is nothing short of heaven – the birds sing, there's always a rainbow, and *Only Fools and Horses* is repeated three times a day.

Now imagine that this paradise is separated from the rest of the world by shark-infested waters. The only way to reach the island without being torn to pieces is via a small rickety bridge. Alas, however, this bridge only caters for the latest lightweight cars and motorbikes – and no pedestrian crossers are allowed. Even worse, once you arrive there's a code on the gates to the city that requires visitors to solve the kind of puzzle that would test a 200 IQ-laden Mensa member. The result is that nobody ever visits this land of plenty. Would you even bother trying to pay a visit?

Okay, so I've over-egged this particular analogy, but the simple fact is that so many people still build Web sites like the beautiful island above. They might include the latest gizmos and effects, but a lot of users can't even access the page in the first place. And for the few that make it through, these sites are often designed with no thought for navigation or for anyone wanting to use the site. The result is that nobody ever visits.

We have salvation, however. Turn to page 24 to discover the usability tricks that will enable you to fashion something that looks stunning and can be used by everyone. Now that is the promised land.

Thomas Watson, Editor
thomas@paragon.co.uk

SAVE £65 WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
SEE PAGE 41 FOR MORE DETAILS

HOW TO CONTACT THE TEAM

General Enquiries
webdesigner@paragon.co.uk
01202 299900

Subscriptions
paragon@cisubs.co.uk
0870 444 8682

Tech Support
techsupport@paragon.co.uk
We regret queries cannot be answered by phone

Advertising opportunities
leylah@paragon.co.uk
01202 200223

CD Help
cdhelp@paragon.co.uk
01202 200259

Customer Service
subs@paragon.co.uk
01202 200200

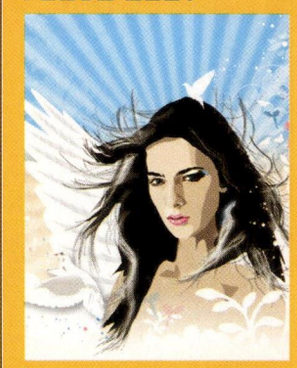
WEB DESIGNER: OUR PROMISE TO YOU

Design focus
Web Designer is the UK's biggest magazine devoted solely to helping you improve your site-building skills. Every month, we focus on the key programs that Web designers of all experience and expertise use: Dreamweaver, Photoshop and Flash. Unlike other titles, we don't shy away from developer issues either, with a section dedicated to hand coding.

Expert help
Each issue of *Web Designer* comes packed with detailed tutorials and indispensable tips and tricks. A dedicated helpdesk section features a team of hand-picked experts to answer your Web design queries. What's more, every article in the magazine is written by an expert in the relevant field.

Practical advice
We are committed to bringing you results, so any tutorial you follow will yield impressive returns that you can use on your own site. To make things easier, the cover disc contains files for you to get started on every tutorial within the magazine.

COVER ART: I LOVE DUST



We wanted our cover to display a heavenly scene, complete with a guardian angel rendered in cool vector shapes. I Love Dust created this stunning image in Illustrator from our original brief. Turn to page 24 to see the image in all its glory.

YOUR GUIDE TO THIS ISSUE...

CONTENTS

ISSUE 98 YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE OF WEB DESIGNER

THE COVER

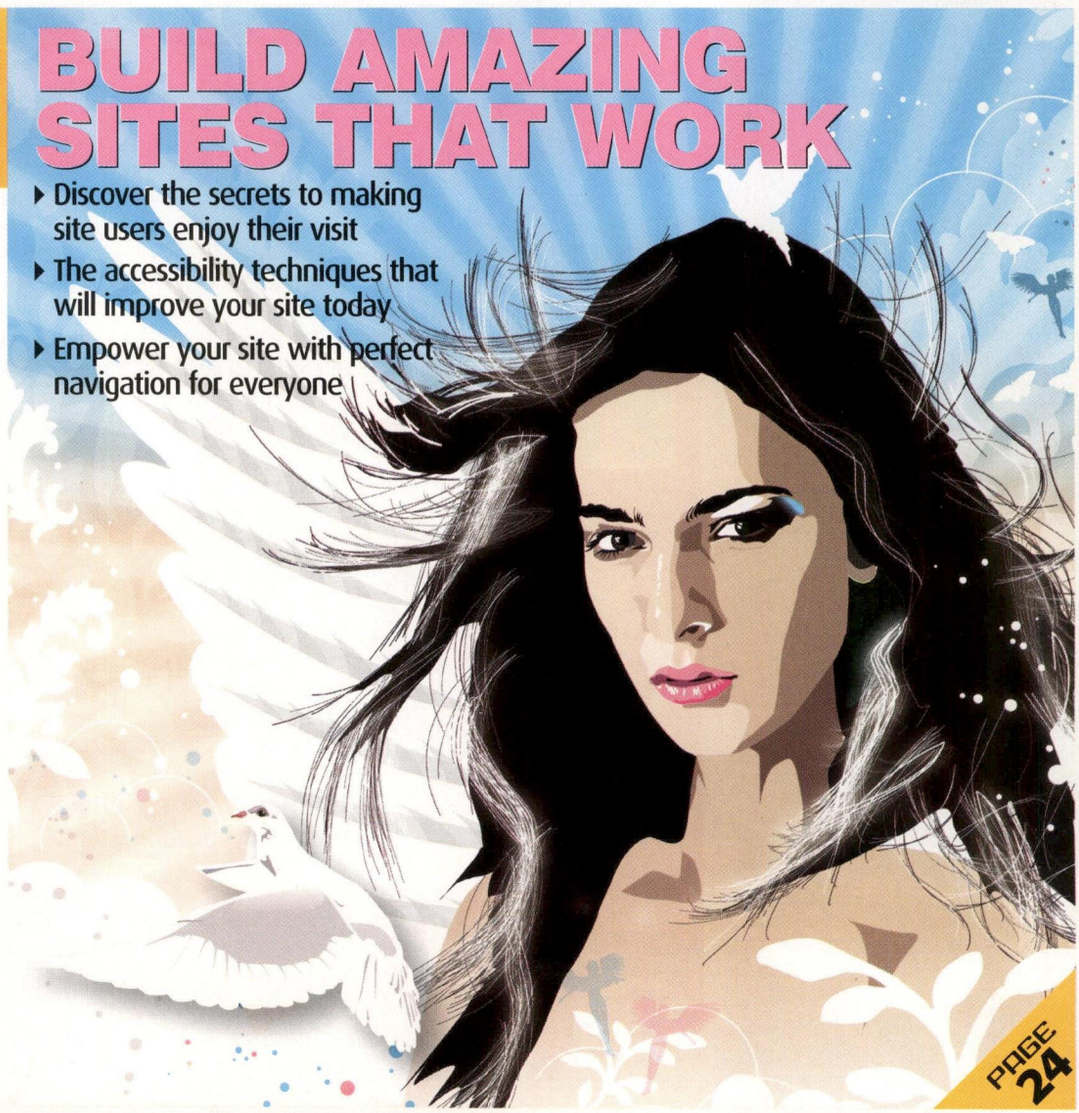
WHAT'S INSIDE

Fancy a tipple?	18
Build amazing sites that work	24
50 pages of advanced tutorials	33
Advanced image composition	34
Clean up messy Web code	58
Create amazing Flash vector art	66
Make money on the Web	96

FEATURE

BUILD AMAZING SITES THAT WORK

- Discover the secrets to making site users enjoy their visit
- The accessibility techniques that will improve your site today
- Empower your site with perfect navigation for everyone



PAGE 24

ON YOUR DISC

ON YOUR FREE CD

650MB OF ESSENTIAL UTILITIES AND FILES

- Two full version programs worth £20 – PowerBlog and JPEGCruncher Express
- 15 high-resolution images from Stocked Photos
- WebDesignHelper templates
- Over 350 templates and images from Boxed Art

SEE PAGE 124 FOR FULL DETAILS

ECOMMERCE

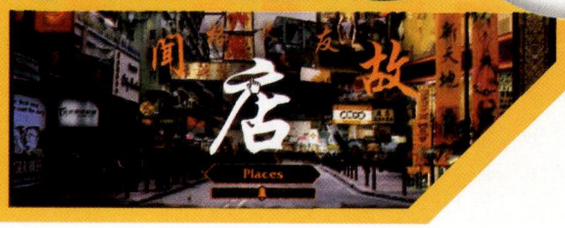
ATTRACT INVESTMENT FOR YOUR EBUSINESS

- We reveal where you should turn in search of start-up money
- Discover the secret Government sources that will save you loads
- How to impress potential investors with the perfect business plan

PAGE 92

BEHIND THE SCENES

DISCOVER HOW THE TEAM AT TIGER BEER MANAGED TO PROVIDE THE BEER COMPANY WITH JUST THE TONIC IT NEEDED
PAGE 18

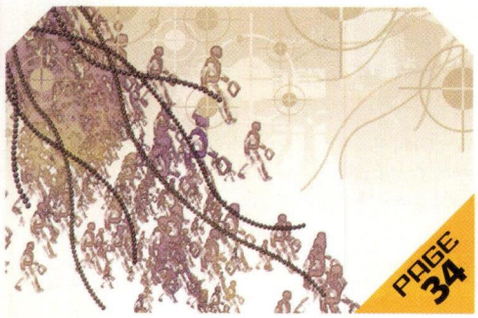


SAVE 56% WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
SEE PAGE 41 FOR MORE DETAILS

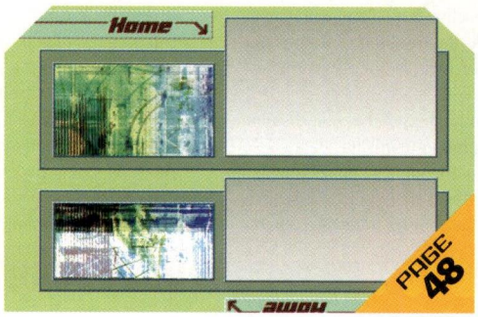
50 PAGES OF WEB DESIGN TUTORIALS

Essential advice for designers and developers

CREATE STUNNING ARTWORK

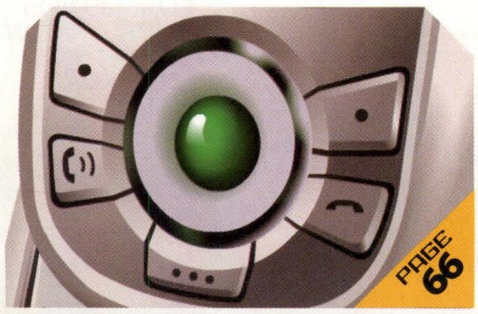

PAGE 34

DESIGN TIME STYLE SHEETS

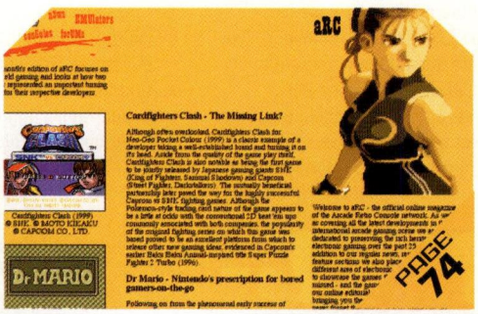


PAGE 48

AMAZING VECTOR ART WITH FLASH


PAGE 66

THE ULTIMATE ACCESSIBLE SITE



PAGE 74

ESSENTIALS

BULLETIN 18
MESSAGE BOARD 15
PROFILE: AARON PILAND 16
BEHIND THE SCENES: TIGER BEER 18
FEATURE: BUILD AMAZING SITES THAT WORK 24
SUBSCRIPTIONS 41
GALLERY 88
ECOMMERCE FEATURE: ATTRACTING INVESTORS 92
ECOMMERCE TUTORIAL: PART THREE 96
WEB HOSTS GUIDE 104
TECH SUPPORT 108
ON YOUR FREE DISC 124
NEXT MONTH 129
CLOSE 130

TUTORIALS

PHOTOSHOP

DESIGN STUNNING ARTWORK 34
ACHIEVE 3D-STYLE EFFECTS IN PHOTOSHOP 42

DREAMWEAVER

BUILD SITES USING DESIGN TIME STYLE SHEETS 48
CREATE OPTIONAL CONTENT FOR YOUR WEB PAGE 52
CLEAN UP DIRTY CODE THE EASY WAY 58

FLASH

CREATE AN ANIMATED PRELOADER 62
STUNNING VECTOR ART: PART ONE 66

ACCESSIBILITY

THE BASICS OF ACCESSIBILITY 70
BUILD STUNNING ACCESSIBLE SITES TODAY 74

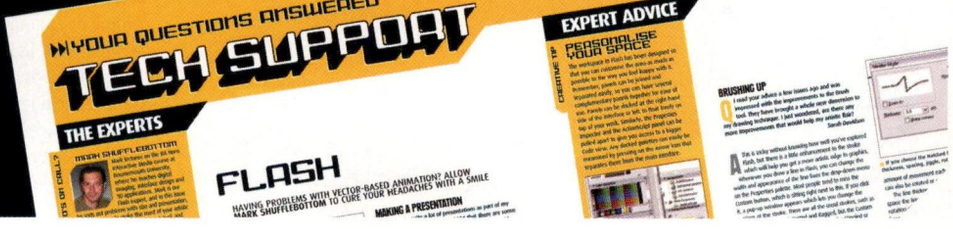
DEVELOPER

SET UP AN ONLINE ORGANISER: PART SIX 80
CREATE A BLOG IN PHP: PART SIX 82
BUILD AN ONLINE HELPDESK: PART SIX 84
CREATE A WEB PORTAL: PART NINE 86

SUPPORT

TECH SUPPORT

Solve all your Web design problems in one fell swoop with our dedicated Help section. Get ready to have your Dreamweaver, Flash, Photoshop and Web development stresses relieved by our team of experts
See page 108



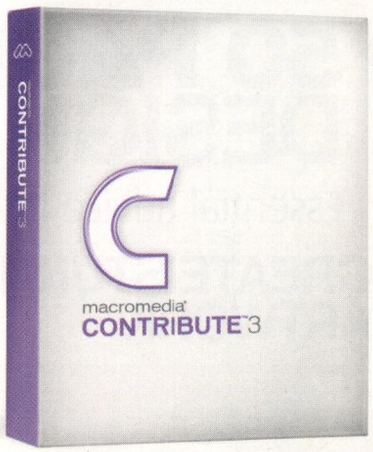
BULLETIN

YOUR ESSENTIAL ROUND-UP OF THE LATEST EVENTS IN THE WORLD OF WEB DESIGN, GRAPHICS CREATION AND SITE DEVELOPMENT

CONTRIBUTE 3

MORE FROM MACROMEDIA

Dreamweaver's daddy unveils some significant updates to its key product ranges



■ Contribute 3: causing a stir in the content management market

Macromedia has announced a major update to its massively popular content management system software, Contribute. Already renowned for allowing site administrators to maintain content with no knowledge of coding, version three promises to make the process even more streamlined and intuitive.

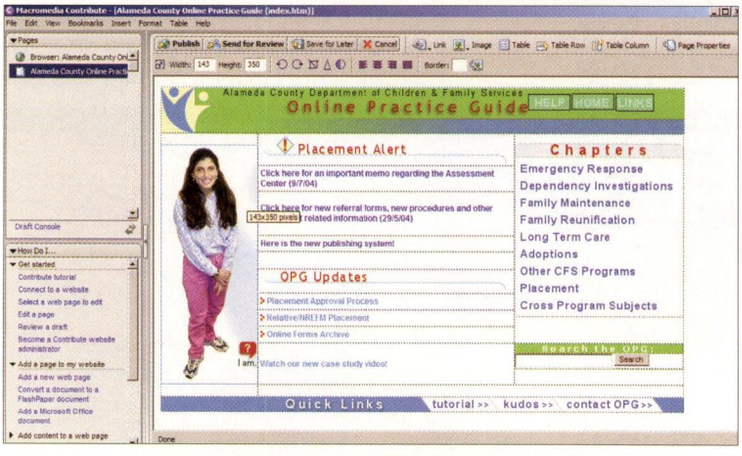
Non-technical users can navigate straight to the document that needs updating, and perform all the edits within the integrated visual environment before publishing changes online. eCommerce tools can also be used to set up PayPal support, while developers skilled in HTML and CSS will be able to seamlessly build fully fledged Contribute-compatible sites.

Designers will be pleased to see added inline imaging capabilities and video insertion functionality, along with the peace of mind that the resulting content is not only browser-friendly but also complies with Section 508's accessibility standards.

Importantly, the potential for distributing workloads among teams has been enhanced to adequately control how pages are accessed and changed. Publishing privileges can be used to dictate what administrators can do, with a brilliant draft console showing work in progress, version histories and rollback archives.

Amongst the many companies to welcome the latest version is Intulogy. "We use Contribute 3 to add new content to our corporate Web site," explained Bill Sherman, vice-president of marketing. "Since our content writers and editors can now make direct changes to the Web site, we've streamlined the publishing and Q&A processes. The Web team has more than doubled its productivity, and the product has fully paid for itself in just two weeks. With its improved CSS rendering and the email notification and review system, Contribute 3 presents a great solution and an excellent return on investment."

"Designers will be pleased to see added inline capabilities as well as video insertion functionality"



■ Contribute promises to empower non-designers with full site management tools

UK pricing is expected to be around £49 (ex VAT) for upgrades and £99 (ex VAT) for the full version, and customers can place orders now at **www.macromedia.com/go/c3i.**

Elsewhere, the company has managed to find time to introduce a totally new Web publishing bundle for corporate applications, and release an update for Flash. Macromedia's 'WPS' is an all-in-one content management solution that unifies existing flagship products Contribute 3, Flashpaper 2, Studio MX and Contribute's Publishing Services. Enterprises are able to centrally distribute the component tools to authors, designers and administrators, while the work in progress can be monitored at every level.

Conversely, version 7.2 of Flash arrived for users to freely download at **www.macromedia.com/go/updates** and promises to improve general stability with quicker launch or compile times. Originally codenamed 'Ellipsis', the update includes enhanced documentation for ActionScript coding and component creation after Macromedia closely canvassed developers within the Flash community. ■

DID YOU KNOW?

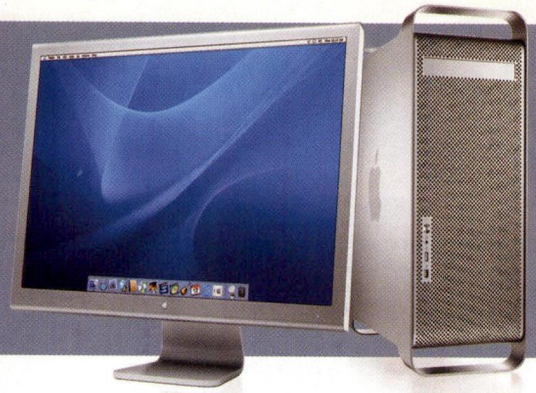
5 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT... CONTRIBUTE

1. Contribute 3 is in English, Japanese, French and German for Mac and Windows, with Italian, Spanish & Korean versions for Windows only.
2. Version 2 won the 2004 Apple Design Award for Best Product New to Mac OS, after scooping awards from Forbes, Macworld and *PC* mag.
3. Macromedia announced this year that Contribute is its fastest selling product ever, after being adopted by over 150,000 customers.
4. The Contribute range was introduced at the end of 2002 by Macromedia, and didn't make it onto Mac until version 2 arrived the next July.
5. Buyers can purchase Contribute 3 in a special discounted six pack for a price of around £469 (excluding VAT).

GOT A NEWS STORY?

Then contact the *Web Designer* team by:

email: webdesigner@paragon.co.uk
phone: 01202 299900
snail mail: Web Designer, Highbury Entertainment Ltd, Paragon House, St Peters Road, Bournemouth, BH1 2JS



NEWS SHORT

SWAPPING FOR APPLES

Apple UK's drive to turn more businesses on to Macintosh hardware has taken on a new trade-in initiative. Machines can now be returned for a maximum of £540 against brand new Apple systems, with even Windows machines accepted for exchange. All equipment must be deemed in good working order and have been installed on work premises for at least six months, with the offer open until the end of the year. See **www2.apple.fr/form/tradein/uk/**.

ATTENTION BRANDED

NOWWASH your T-shirt

Leading design agency gets fashionable with its trendy new clothing label and launch site

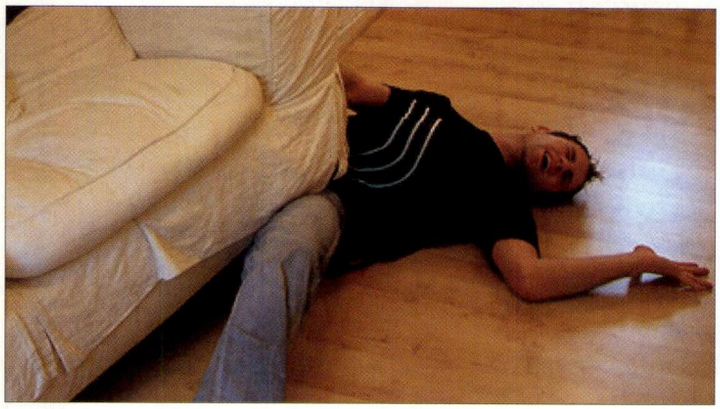
For anyone who's ever wondered how the digital design industry would translate into fashion, a certain UK new media firm might have the answer.

London's NOWWASHYOURHANDS has taken the plunge into T-shirt design with a range of 'Attention Branded' garments featuring exclusive prints. Directors Tim Spear, Neil Jeffries and Angus MacKinnon were behind the initiative, which they hope will deliver a stylish independent label.

"Attention captures the essence of the NOWWASHYOURHANDS' no-nonsense graphic design," said Spear. "The limited edition T-shirts are just the start of Attention Branded's exclusive range."

Catering for men and women, the collection comprises two sub-series titled 'Attention Abstract' and 'Attention Warning' that can be purchased as special boxed sets. The latter uses common symbols taken from public signs to create a number of effective motifs such as 'No Fly' and 'Mind Your Head', while also providing the theme for the **www.attentionbrand.com** micro site.

Launched to coincide with the T-shirts going on sale, it not only provides direct mail ordering facilities but also displays them in a unique way. Photo sequences show models getting into frightful domestic accidents with fire, electricity and garden appliances, while animated product illustrations offer a more down-to-earth approach. Prices are £24.99 for single T-shirts, with sets of three including badges, stickers, a themed CD-ROM and instruction pamphlet retailing for £69.99. ■



■ It looks painful, but this is a model showing off one of Attention Branded's new T-shirts

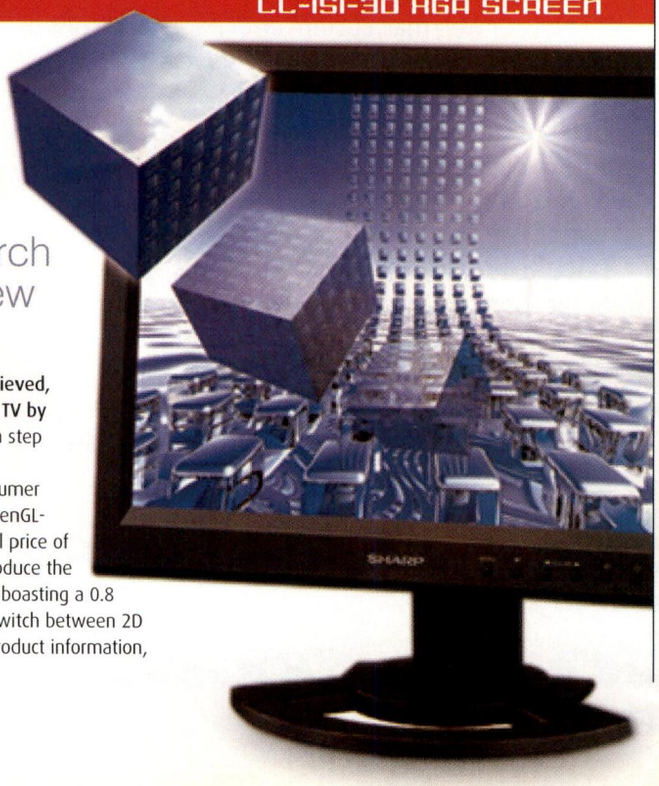
LL-151-3D XGA SCREEN

Sharp enters third dimension

Electronics giant steals a march on rivals with revolutionary new LCD monitor

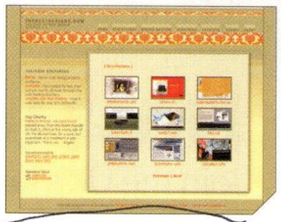
If those movie visions of a futuristic future were to be believed, we'd all be driving around in flying cars and watching 3D TV by now. Interstellar traffic jams aside, it seems we may have taken a step closer to such a scenario, thanks to the technicians at Sharp.

They've just announced a new 15-inch XGA screen for the consumer market that promises to deliver stunning 3D images from your OpenGL-supported graphics card. The LL-151-3D hit US shelves with a retail price of $1,499 (£834) and uses special 'parallax barrier' technology to produce the effect without the need for special glasses or goggles. Aside from boasting a 0.8 Megapixel, 1024x768 resolution, the unit will also automatically switch between 2D and 3D modes depending on the content being viewed. For full product information, stop by **www.sharpsystems.com**. ■



SOURCES OF INSPIRATION

Stylish Web sites that offer advice, tips and all-round beauty



THE BEST DESIGNS

www.thebestdesigns.com

If your bookmark list is feeling a bit jaded these days, you could do a lot worse than stopping by this link exchange. A compact collection of some of the best-loved URLs spans all the examples that would whet the appetite of any designer, while the inclusion of a handy Resources section is a neat touch.

OURCALL

www.ourcall.org

This Chinese pixel art site promotes local and international examples of the popular graphical style. Luckily, all content's translated into English, as the inclusion of some great forums makes this an ideal place to share imaging tips and tricks. A gallery of brilliant work is also just a click away, with contributors invited to submit their own efforts.

FONT DINER

www.fontdiner.com/main.html

Specialising in the kind of quirky typefaces that were all the rage in the Forties and Fifties, this site could be just the ticket for adding some chic to your content. Six commercial sets are complemented by superb examples which can be freely downloaded for Windows and Mac – and check out the cool jukebox-styled vending machine!

Become a web host

partner with the UK's number 1

Ideal for resellers & web developers

Host unlimited domains

Join the UK's **largest** web host, with over **1 million websites.**

Build your business with the tools that have made us the UK's largest web host. Use the power of our UK data centre and dedicated R&D team to create market leading hosting and broadband packages tailored to your customers.

"The Fasthosts control panel is simple enough for beginners, but provides lots of features for power users."

.Net Magazine 2004

Microsoft CERTIFIED Partner

Features to develop your business

✔ **Total online control**
Instantly create accounts, add features and manage your customer base, with our award winning control panel.

✔ **Windows 2003 and Red Hat Linux**
Sell unlimited hosting packages. Offer customers their choice of operating system.

✔ **Fully brandable service**
Brand your web mail, custom error pages and control panels, plus create custom name servers.

✔ **Customer control panels**
Put your customers in control of their accounts, with brandable personal control panels.

✔ **Latest web scripting technologies**
Attract profitable, feature-hungry customers by offering ASP.NET, ASP, PHP, Perl and CGI scripting.

✔ **Databases**
Microsoft SQL Server, MySQL and ODBC databases for advanced web applications.

Reseller account

- ✔ Host **unlimited** domains
- ✔ **Unlimited** sub-domains
- ✔ **Unlimited** websites
- ✔ **Unlimited** POP3 email
- ✔ **Unlimited** FTP accounts
- ✔ Perl, PHP and CGI scripting
- ✔ Online control panel
- ✔ Custom error pages
- ✔ Bandwidth monitoring
- ✔ SSH secure shell access (Linux)
- ✔ ODBC access
- ✔ Professional web mail
- ✔ SMS alerts
- ✔ Dialup internet access (local rate)
- ✔ **Free** 24/7 phone and email support
- ✔ Instant **free** setup

ALL INCLUDED

30 day money back guarantee

Optional extras

ASP on Windows	Microsoft media streaming
ASP.NET	MySQL & MS SQL Server
Red Hat Enterprise Linux	Spam filtering
Web server load balancing	Email virus protection
Website creation tools	Advanced SMS alerts
Matrix website stats	Custom branding
SSL secure web space	Personal control panels
Password protection	Custom name servers
FrontPage Extensions	Broadband internet access

£50 Flat monthly fee + VAT

2 Months FREE when you pay annually

Sign up today

fasthosts.co.uk

or call ***0870 888 3770***

fasthosts

»NEWS SHORT

ONLINE AD BOOM

Many may regard it as a scourge of the online community, but it seems Internet advertising is set to grow and grow in the short-term. According to new findings from JupiterResearch, confidence in the selling power of the Web will drive spending figures to over £8.7bn within the next five years. Analysts also believe that growths in paid searches, display ads and online classifieds will see the total £3.6bn market swell to nearly three times that value by 2009.

»NEWS SHORT

ALL-NEW KELKOO

Online shop assistant Kelkoo has relaunched its service across all ten of its European markets. Buyers can now expect a far cleaner and more streamlined look that is not only optimised for viewing at different resolutions, but largely free of intrusive advertising. The number of search pages has also been greatly reduced to speed up retrieval, while navigation throughout the vast product archive should see customers arrive at their goods more effectively.

DESIGN ACHIEVEMENT

Adobe awards

2004 sees a fresh bunch of hot-shot undergraduates recognised by the software giant

Adobe rolled out its red carpet recently for the new breed of graphic artists, digital illustrators, publishers and multimedia designers. The company's annual Design Achievement Awards held its 2004 ceremony at San Francisco's Yerba Buena Arts Centre to announce which of the talented nominees had stormed the seven creative categories.

Judges including Design Machine NY's Alexander Gelman and Karin Fong from the LA-based studio Imaginary Forces had the unenviable task of picking the best entries from over 1,400 submissions across the US, Canada and the UK. In the end, it was South African-born filmmaker Adam Lieber, who did his studies at the Royal College of Art, that picked up first place for Time-Based Media. His haunting short movie 'Awaiting Presentiment' was commended for its use of Adobe Premiere, while at the same time edging out notable work from Californian students Junseo Hahm and Ryan Corey.

The hugely talented nominees produced some imaginative and highly original work

Yale's Jayme Yen came away clutching the top Illustration prize for her unique digital tracings of motor highways entitled 'Interchanges', alongside Cincinnati's G. Dan Covert whose 'Graphic Design: A Closer Look' project took best Print.

"We see this competition as the start of a lifelong relationship between Adobe and the talented student winners, who will certainly go on to establish themselves in successful careers in creative professions," explained Adobe's Melissa Dyrdahl.

A full winners list and links to all of the credited work can be found at **www.adobe.com/education/winners/main.html** ■

VIRTUAL TEST DRIVE

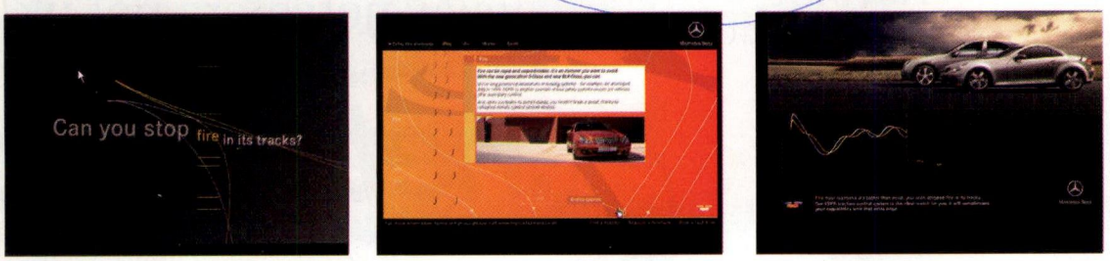
Flash cars

Luxury car maker gets the luxury treatment, thanks to a hot new dynamic Web site from Syzygy

Anyone fortunate enough to be eyeing up the latest C-Class and SLK models from Mercedes-Benz can go on a virtual test drive, thanks to Syzygy. The UK-based team has delivered a fantastic microsite to coincide with the launch of both cars, which plays on the manufacturer's revolutionary 'Direct Control Steering' system to create a beautifully animated experience.

Coupled with the theme of battling the earth's elements such as water, fire and air, it includes an interactive challenge which will assess the user's sense of direction. Chasing a moving isobar around the browser window not only suggests which features will suit you best, but also goes on to reveal some eye-popping Flash work.

All the content is lovingly introduced by a combination of abstract graphical sequences and striking vector graphics, with visitors to **www.drivetheelements.co.uk** encouraged to download exclusive high resolution wallpapers and screensavers from the accompanying Downloads section. ■



Test your driving skills and your sense of direction in this interactive challenge from Syzygy

EVENTS DIARY

Web Intelligence 2004
20 September
Beijing, China
A unique conference looking at how Artificial Intelligence will converge with the online community in the long-term. The discussion of new technologies, data models and methodologies will include theories from numerous influential speakers.

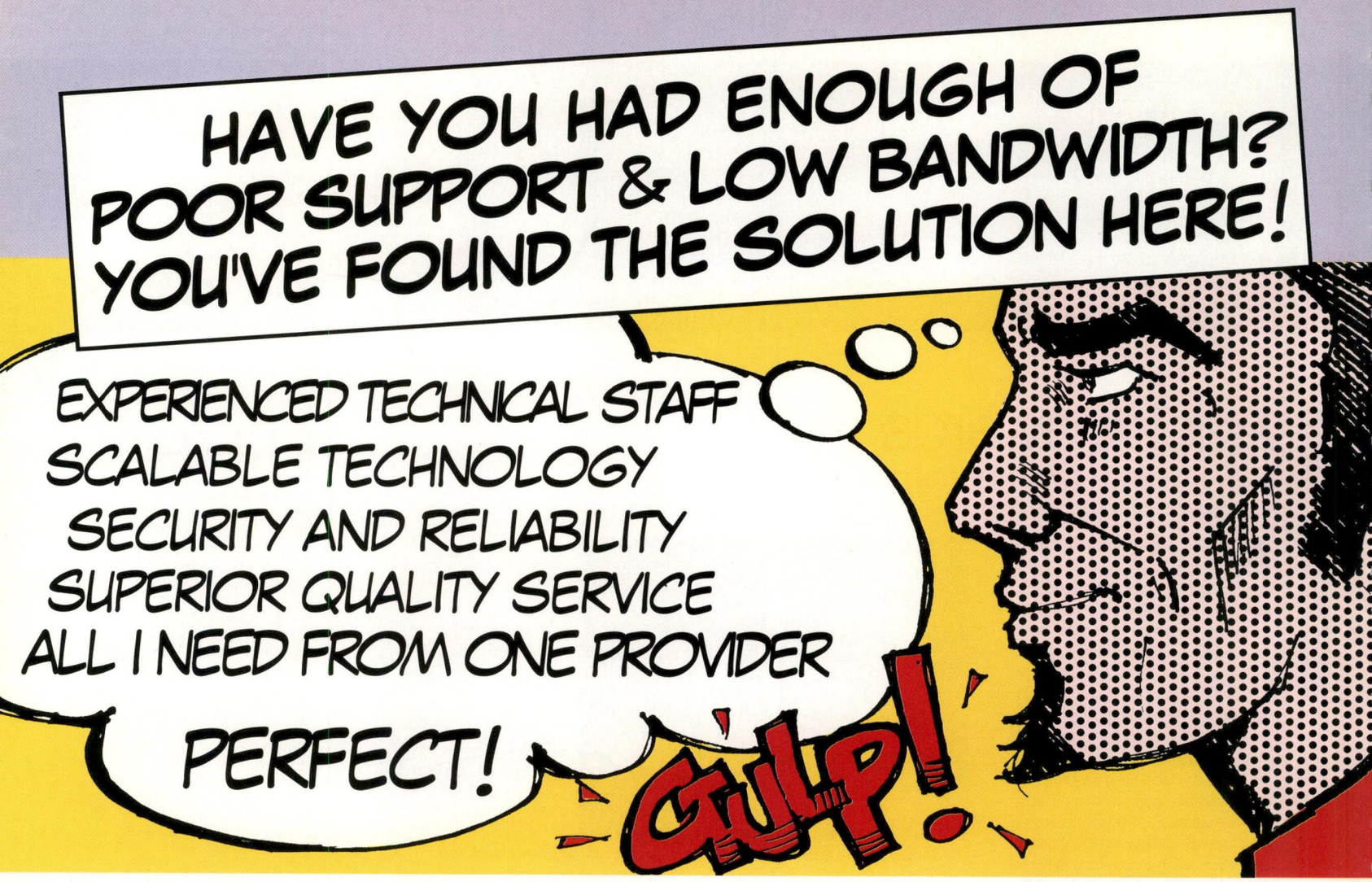
World Creative Forum 2004
20-21 September
London
The second World Creative Forum is the place for exploring what impact creative innovation and thinking has on society. Attendants from all over the creative world will meet to hear keynote speeches from the likes of Sir Christopher Frayling and design historian Deborah Jaffe.

London Design Festival 2004
20-30 September
London
This ten-day festival spans numerous locations including London's Design Museum and Barbican Art Gallery, showcasing rich creative talent across diverse categories.

2nd International Conference on Advances in Mobile Media
22-24 September
Bali, Indonesia
Endorsed by the International Organisation for Information Integration and Web-based Applications & Services, this event looks to promote the sharing of knowledge about mobile multimedia development between students, academics, researchers and professionals.

Practical Usability Testing
13 October
Manchester
Special seminar teaching the virtues of usability testing, with lessons given on how to conduct full product or Web site evaluations and produce meaningful reports.

Stretch Design Conference
14-16 October
Washington DC
Step Inside Design magazine hosts this two-day event for anyone associated with the creative industry. An introspective look at areas of fashion, architecture, film and product design will hopefully inspire new ways of thinking.



Professional Web Hosting That Meets Your Needs!

Shared hosting:

HOME Package
- 100Mb Web Space & POP3 email - £ 60pa

DEVELOPER Package
- 250Mb Web Space & 20Gbpm bandwidth
- 100 POP3 Accounts
- ASP.NET, ASP, XML, PERL SUPPORT
- all this and more from only £8 pm

RESELLER Package
- 2Gb web space & 20Gbpm Bandwidth
- Multiple Domain Hosting with e-mail
- Scripting support, SSL all from only £45 pm

Dedicated hosting
.NETppliance 1800 Server
- 2.8Ghz Intel P4 CPU
- 40Gb IDE Hard Drive
- 256Mb Ram
- 100GB Monthly Bandwidth

http://windows-servers.net/pi

£65 pm* / £780 pa

one-off set-up fee £100

Alternative dedicated servers available

ADSL Broadband
- 512/256 From £18.99 pm
- 1:1 ADSL Available
- Business ADSL From £27.50pm
- SDSL Available
- Range of Modems/Routers

http://adsl.inetc.net/pi

All DSL connections require a line check

.netcetera special
- FREE Resource Kit
- FREE Search Engine Software
- FREE .Net Starter Kits
- FREE Copy of Microsoft VB

monthly deal

Microsoft ASP.net

Microsoft Windows .NET Server 2003

Microsoft CERTIFIED Partner

FREEPHONE 0800 298 7214

www.netcetera.net.uk/pi

.netcetera

web hosting with the human touch

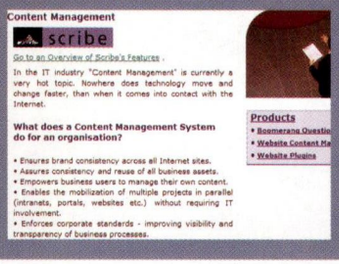
Details correct at time of going to press. Set-up fees may apply. Terms and conditions apply. All trademarks acknowledged. All Prices subject to VAT at 17.5%

WEB HOSTING • DEDICATED HOSTING • COLOCATION • DOMAIN NAMES • CONNECTIVITY

NEWS SHORT

SIGMER GETS SCRIBED

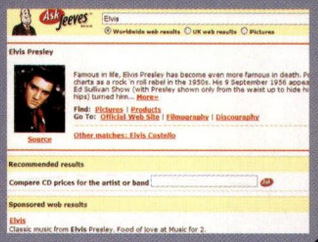
In similar vein to IBM's WAT initiative (see below), Sigmer Technologies is putting its weight behind a new Web accessibility product called 'Scribe'. Commended for its involvement in the redesign of Save The Children's worldwide domain, the content management product takes a slightly different route by ensuring that parsed pages comply with design legislation without compromising on look and feel. For more information visit **www.sigmer.co.uk**.



NEWS SHORT

BETTER BUTLER

As part of its continuing bid to steal a march on competing searchers, Ask Jeeves UK has launched a new Smart Search tool for finding celebrity information. The 'Famous People Search' joins the recently added Product Retrieval tool, and will enable users to find up-to-date biographies of stars like Elvis and Will Smith in a matter of seconds.



WEB ADAPTATION TECHNOLOGY

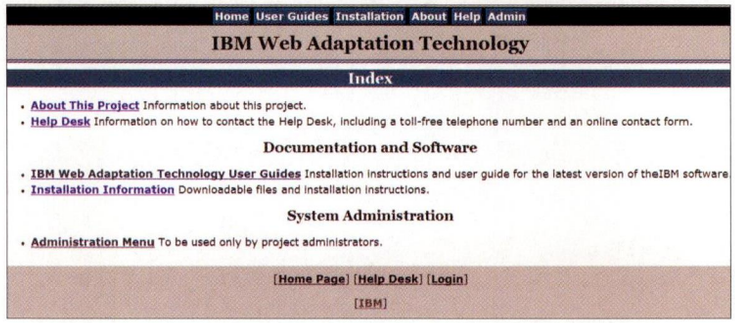
IBM gives accessibility WAT for...

Brand new service provides disabled users with everything they need to view improved online content

For too long the biggest problem with accessible Web design has been its relative inaccessibility for the authors themselves. This could all be about to change with a revolutionary new system from IBM that remotely optimises pages before they reach the browser.

Termed Web Adaptation Technology or 'WAT', the service gives disabled users the opportunity to transform standard documents into more accessible equivalents with no fuss. It works by sending traffic through a host system that communicates with a locally stored desktop program, which then alters the content depending on previous preferences.

All pages are compatible, including those not already W3C compliant, and the amendments that can be made are far from consigned to just the legibility of the text. Not only can people with visual or learning difficulties choose speech output, but also pick colour schemes, backgrounds and line spacing, and eliminate banner ads.



■ The 'WAT' service lets disabled users transform standard documents into accessible equivalents

"It turns the issue of accessible Web sites on its head," said IBM's corporate community affairs manager, Mark Wakefield. "It'll be many years before the majority of sites are accessible. Rather than wait to get them converted, WAT enables people to manipulate Web pages now."

The service is currently available freely to those charitable or non-profitmaking organisations that can promote it to the relevant target audience, with IBM keen to see adoption figures rise progressively. It already has the backing of one of the UK's foremost champions of disabled IT, AbilityNet, as technical support for the project, which could spark an interesting debate over where the responsibility for good design should reside.

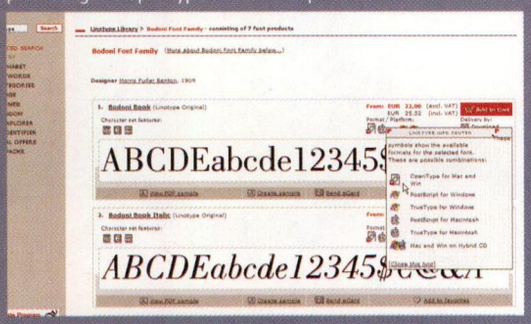
For more info on how to receive the service, go to **www.webadapt.org**. ■

OPENTYPE SUPPORT

HEAVENLY FONTS

Cross-platform characters closer to widespread acceptance

Ask any new media designer what one of their major bugbears might be, and chances are that the discrepancies between PC and Mac font support would rank fairly highly. A united format is finally starting to rouse interest, however. For some time now, Adobe has been actively promoting the OpenType standard as part of its Creative Suite bundle, but has only recently announced significant industry backing from leading font foundries. New support from vendors such as Linotype, Émigré, Bitstream and the Font Bureau has signalled that commercial need could be the catalyst for mainstream adoption.



■ Adobe's OpenType is the first font to work on both Windows and Macs

"The industry's embrace of OpenType and Adobe Creative Suite signals a return to higher typographic standards," said Adobe's senior vice-president of Creative Professional Products, Jim Heeger. "Now creative professionals can produce outstanding work beyond expectations, with easier cross-platform collaboration and more streamlined workflows than ever before."

Born out of a joint partnership with Microsoft to improve document portability across multiple platforms, OpenType is credited as the first font that works on both Windows and Macs. Its improved typographic and multilingual support also means that extensive fully featured character sets can be condensed into smaller families.

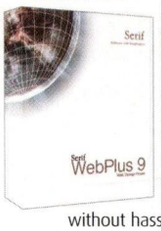
"OpenType is also simple for our customers to use," enthused managing director of Linotype Library GmbH, Bruno Steinhart. "Notorious cross-platform compatibility issues are now history." ■

PRODUCTS

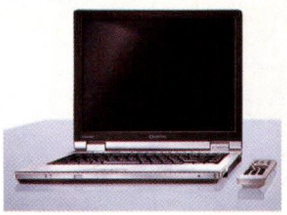
New hardware and software to boost your design creativity

SERIF WEBPLUS 9

www.serif.com



Designed to give novice Web authors a more intuitive alternative to Dreamweaver, the new version of WebPlus has all you need for Web publishing without hassle. Customisable page templates provide the perfect start, and the hierarchical approach to structuring sites and document navigation improves workflow. HTML import features, an incremental FTP facility, menu wizards and a host of fresh graphical options are also thrown in for just £59.99.



TOSHIBA QOSMIO E10

www.qosmio.co.uk

With computing and digital entertainment converging, the Qosmio products are ideal. This E10 laptop integrates advanced media technology, with Harman Kardon speakers, SRS TruSurround XT audio support, DVD playback and AV recording. The ultra-bright Clear Super View LCD screen is perfect for video and office apps. RRP £1,499.

WILDFORM FLASH VIDEO EXPORTER

www.wildform.com

Previously, if you wanted to add Flash FLV export facilities to existing video apps, you had to use Flash MX Pro 2004. But Wildform's new export component is far cheaper and offers FLV and SWF outputs. Compatible with most apps that support QuickTime plugins, it costs $99 (£54) and is available for Windows only.

Dependable Hosting for Unlimited Websites.

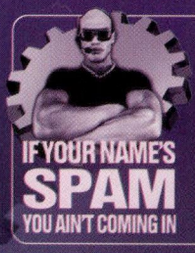
Host as many websites as you wish on your choice of UNIX/Linux or Windows 2003 web servers. Quickly set-up new sites and manage existing ones using our industry leading control panel. Define hosting plans for your customers and customise their control panels with your brand enabling you to offer high end, profitable hosting solutions to your clients.

Scripting & Applications
Full support for ASP, ASP.NET, Perl, PHP, FrontPage and CGI at no extra charge meets the needs of the most demanding developer.

Database
Set-up and manage mySQL, Microsoft SQL Server & Access databases for use with your websites.

Email
Create unlimited mailboxes, forwarders and auto responders. Web browser based and POP3/SMTP access for all your mailboxes. Up to date virus protection and spam filtering.

Exclusive Control Panel
Our exclusive web based control panel puts you in real time control of every aspect of your hosting account.



SPAMBouncer
FREE 14 DAY TRIAL
(with any reseller registration)
SPAM Bouncer is a unique and exclusive product, created by our in-house research and development team. SPAM Bouncer filters unwanted and harmful email messages out of your inbox saving your time and money.

E-Commerce
128bit SSL & PGP encryption for secure e-commerce enabled web sites.

Control Panel for your Clients
Control panels for your customers at no extra charge. Your clients manage their account and seek technical support via their own web based control panel reducing your administration overheads. You have total control over the format of your client's control panels for complete integration with your brand.

Graphical Stats
View graphical usage statistics for your web sites, see how many people are visiting your sites, where they come from, what search keywords they use to find you and more. You may also download raw log files for analysis using your own software.

Personal Server Names
Server hostnames and name servers personalised with your company domain present a professional image to your customers.

Exceptional Customer Support
We are committed to providing the best service and technical support for our customers. Our devoted team will solve your problems and tend to your needs by telephone and email for no extra charge.

Integrated Domain Management
Comprehensive domain name registration, renewal and management facilities are integrated into your hosting control panel. DNS management facilities also allow full A/MX record configuration. Preferential pricing on domain names is offered to resellers.

Money Back Guarantee
We're so confident we will surpass your expectations that if you are unsatisfied you can cancel your account and claim a full refund.

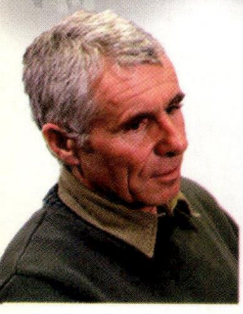
Sign Up Now!
InstantActivation

Sign up NOW and enjoy 7 days free service. Simply enter the special code WDF3 at:
www.donhost.co.uk
or call 0845 226 5566

Login and start using the account straight away whether you sign up online or over the telephone.

From £39.99 per month
or £399.99 per year

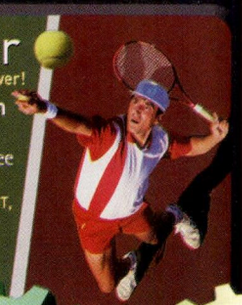
No minimum contract, no set-up fee, terminate at any time.



"Donhost was recommended to us here at Modelsport UK, and now provides all our internet services. I have been extremely pleased with their level of service, and have always found Donhost to be approachable, friendly and efficient. I can thoroughly recommend Donhost to anyone looking for a truly professional and competitive ISP."

Howard Cliff - *Modelsport UK*

Ace Server
The Ultimate Dedicated Server!
Fully managed from £49.99 per month
100% Uptime Guarantee or your money back
NO MINIMUM CONTRACT, NO SET-UP FEE, TERMINATE AT ANY TIME.



Call: 0845 226 5566
Or visit: www.donhost.co.uk

Business packages also available from £8.99/month
Fully managed dedicated servers from £49.99/month

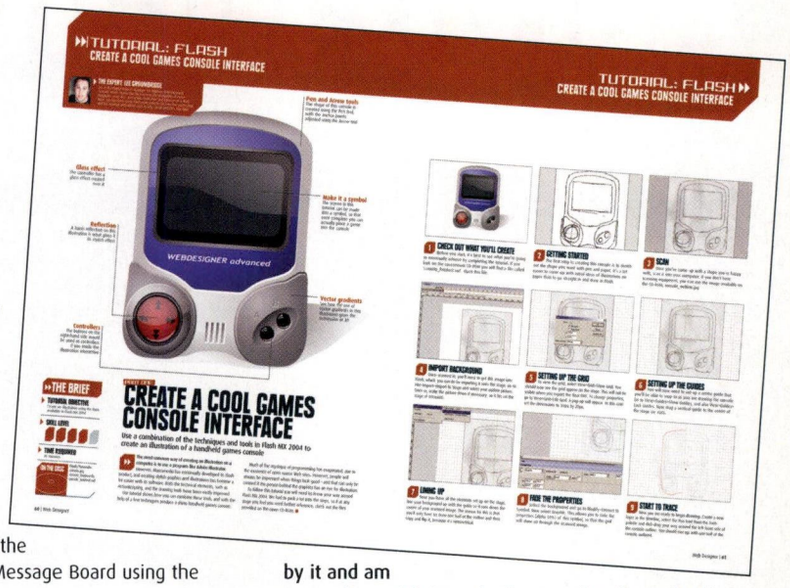
Microsoft .net — Powered by Windows 2003. Net Server
FreeBSD — THE POWER TO SERVE
Ripe NCC Member
A member of Nominet:uk
Cisco Powered Network

donhost
power in your hands

THE WEB IS AN INTERACTIVE MEDIUM, AND SO IS *WEB DESIGNER*. TELL US WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, FROM YOUR LIKES AND DISLIKES IN THE MAGAZINE THROUGH TO YOUR LATEST PROJECT...

MESSAGE BOARD

HOW TO CONTACT MESSAGE BOARD:
EMAIL: webdesigner@paragon.co.uk
SNAIL MAIL: Web Designer, Highbury Entertainment Ltd, Paragon House, St Peters Road, Bournemouth, BH1 2JS



ACTINIC ANSWERS PLEASE

Your magazine is great. I have bought the last four issues and now want my employer (a university) to purchase a subscription.

I have been following your eCommerce tutorial, which is excellent. Is it possible to do it all in the tutorials with Actinic Catalog, which is reasonably priced, or do I need the Business or Developer editions? I only want to create a small site for my wife who sells a limited range of cat-themed novelty items?

Keep up the good work.

Alastair Gilmore

The main difference between the entry-level Actinic Catalog and its Business and Developer siblings centres around advanced discounting and more sophisticated member management, Alastair. In other words, you'll be fine to follow our tutorials, and in fact, you'll be able to get a comprehensive store online using Actinic Catalog.

GOING LIVE

Thanks Mr Watson for a superb magazine full of great tutorials to help us Web designers who find some aspects of site production so *elementary*. Are there any plans to mention GoLive in the near future?

At the moment, I have to translate Dreamweaver lessons published in *Web Designer*, following along using GoLive. I realise Dreamweaver is the supreme Web developers' program, but poor old GoLive isn't far behind. If you can mention Paint Shop Pro, why can't you give us some GoLive action?

Sally Harvey

As a magazine aimed at Web designers, we base our content around what this particular section of society uses on a regular basis. Alas, Dreamweaver has tons more market share than GoLive, so we have to bow to the might of Macromedia's massively popular software.

We did actually have a GoLive section in Issue 88 of *Web Designer*, and there are plans for more GoLive tutorials in the future, so keep your eyes peeled. Oh, and groans all round for being the first reader to write in to Message Board using the Watson-elementary pun.

SPOTTER'S BADGE

Just thought I would let you know that in issue 97, the Bulletin section, in the article about the 'Flashforward Favourites Found' there was a typo. One of the links you mentioned (**www.bombtheworld.com**) took me to the wrong page. It is only when I went onto the Flashforward Conference site that I found that the real domain name for 'Bomb The World' is **www.bombtheworld.net** and not .com.

So just thought you would like to know. Thanks for your superb magazine

Michael Morris AKA – M3XEL

We stand corrected, Michael. Good spot.

NO WAY BACK

I've just purchased my first copy of *Web Designer*, and I'm enthralled (damn that's a big word from me) by it and am currently considering whether to subscribe under the 26 Issues option.

I can only do HTML/DHTML/little bits of Java right now, but I'm going on a degree course soon to do ASP. I find the magazine helpful, except now I'm stuck on which language to use for my Web sites at the moment. Anyway, I was very interested in the Flash games console section. The only trouble is I have issue 96 and need issue 95 to build the console rather than the game...

Is there any way I can back order?

Marc

Unfortunately, there's about as much chance of getting hold of a *Web Designer* back issue as there is of seeing Elvis skipping down the road to your local boozer arm in arm with John Lennon and Henry VIII. Alas, we've long since run out of back issues. There is salvation, however – pop along to **www.total-web-design.com**, and you might just find the files you need.

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY? GET IT OFF YOUR CHEST NOW: WWW.TOTAL-WEB-DESIGN.COM

LETTER OF THE MONTH: GET UP OFF YOUR KNEES

I've been a subscriber since the magazine was *Practical Internet*, and I've noticed in the last few issues that there seems to be far too much 'crawling' by people wanting to get a message on your Message Board. *Web Designer* is a great magazine – we all know that already, so please cut down the 'crawly script' in the future (which means that this won't appear).

Anyway, my real enquiry concerns the code descriptions listed in the mag. Most are sketchy to say the least, so would it be possible to include more concise explanations on the CD with the tutorial files, perhaps as code comments? Most code is self-explanatory, but occasionally it can look confusing.

I've just bought an excellent book I thought your readers might be interested in. It's titled *DHTML and CSS for the World Wide Web Third Edition* by Jason Cranford Teague (Peach Pit Press, ISBN 0-321-19958-8). Although set out as an easygoing tutorial, it's just as good as a reference book for CSS and DHTML with good illustrations, code explanations, references to other Web resources and loads of ideas for inclusion to Web sites. Jason also has his own Web site with corrections to the book (very few errors, though), and the code used in the book is available for download. All this for a measly £16.99.

Ken Ozwell

Despite what Ken says, we're not averse to the odd overly complimentary email, so keep 'em coming! And obviously if you have something critical to say, feel free to send that in as well – this page is all about you as a reader getting your opinion across. Good shout regarding the eBook – we know that Web designers are always on the lookout for helpful tomes to sort out their problems, so expect to see a Books section return to *Web Designer* soon.

Aaron Piland

With his work gracing many magazine articles, Aaron Piland's renderings of B-movie robots and battling monsters have put Apak Studio right up there with the best

WD: How and why did you first get into working with digital media?
AP: I guess it all started out in elementary school, when I found out that you could type the word 'boobs' on an upside down calculator... after that, video games, the Macintosh and the Web had a lot to do with it. Buttons became all-powerful tools and the Web opened up a lot of new possibilities.

WD: What does Apak Studio stand for creatively and in terms of the work it produces?
AP: Since 1998 we have been using the Web and print as tools for mass communication and artistic exploration. Apak Studio began in college with my wife Ayumi, and like us it has continued to grow and evolve since then. We both have our own styles, but we love collaborating together on projects as well. I like robots and she likes animals.

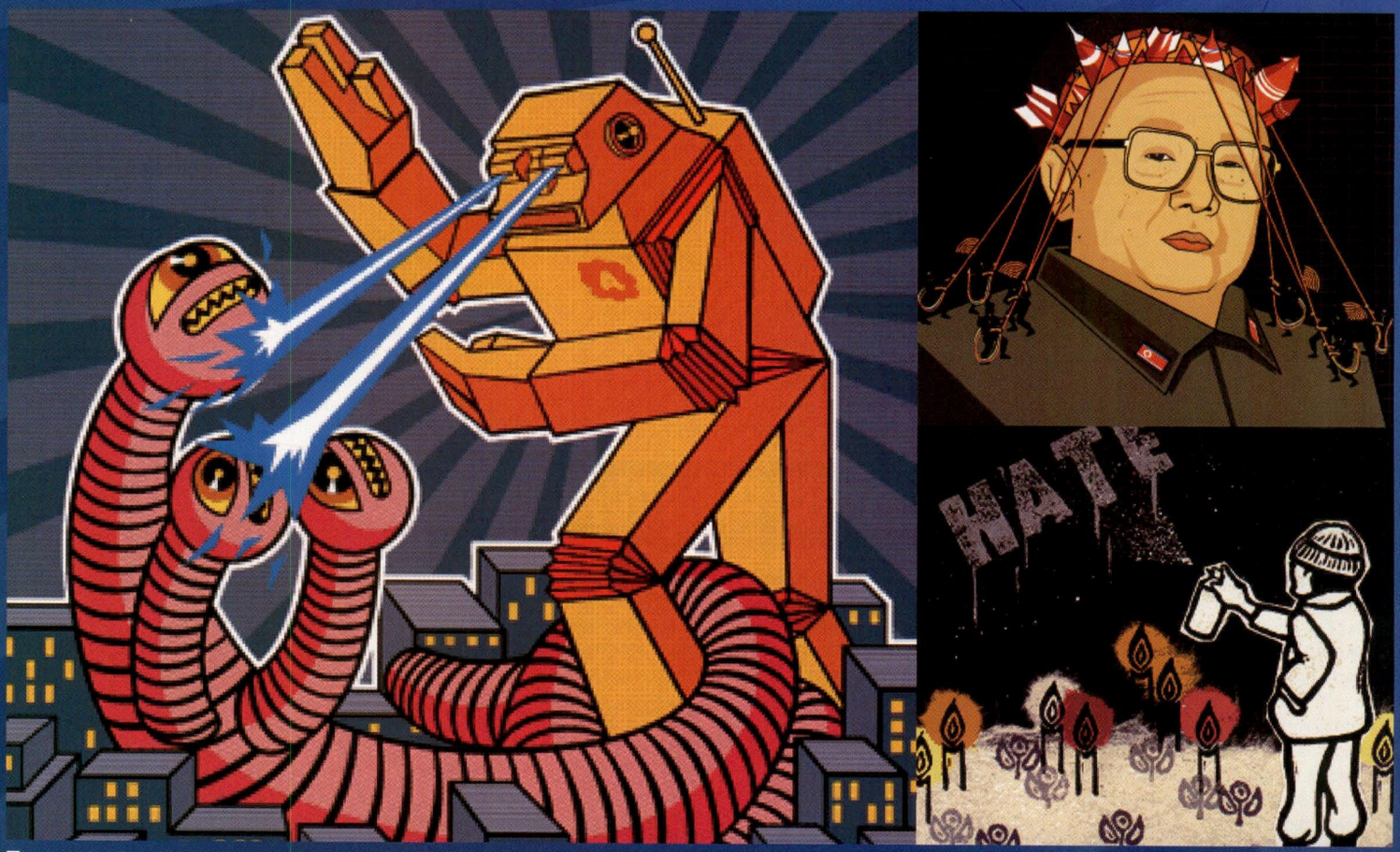
WD: What software tools do you feel are the most important to you and why?
AP: When it comes to software I mostly use FreeHand, Photoshop and Flash, because they are quick, clean and work together seamlessly... But I prefer the freedom and fluidity of an old-fashioned pen and paper over software any day!

WD: Your online portfolio contains many examples that have been featured in various magazines. How much creative freedom do you have afforded to you when taking on this kind of work?
AP: Editorial illustration is pretty open and free because I'm basically just responding to the article with my own voice and style. There are always certain limitations and problems to overcome, but in the end it's a lot better than working full time on a corporate slave-ship.

WD: What words of wisdom would you give to anyone hoping to get into digital art or design?
AP: Explore and let yourself make mistakes, back up your files – and of course have fun!

WD: Much of your illustrative work seems to draw on Japanese monster movies or comic books. Why is this such a prevailing theme in your work?
AP: I've always been into science fiction, and since I've been living in Japan I guess it has had a big influence on my work. I like the big, bold graphics and crazy plot-lines of Eighties movie posters and robot animations such as AstroBoy, Tetsujin 28 and Mazinger Z.

WD: Are there any fellow artists or designers out there that you look up to or admire?
AP: There must be hundreds! To name a few... Luke Temby (**cupco.net**), Mike and Katie (**tado.co.uk**), KOA



■ Aaron Piland's work shows a strong Japanese influence, and he is also clearly inspired by his love of science fiction

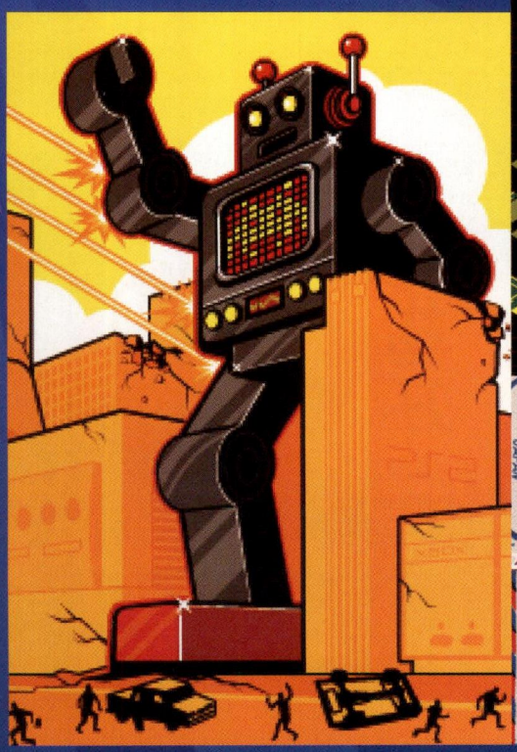
(**koadzn.free.fr**), Bwana Spoons (**grasshutcorp.com**), Klon (**klondesign.dk**), TVM (**trevorvanmeter.com**), Tim Biskup (**timbiskup.com**), Pete Fowler (**monsterism.net**), Gary Baseman (**garybaseman.com**) and my wife, Ayumi.

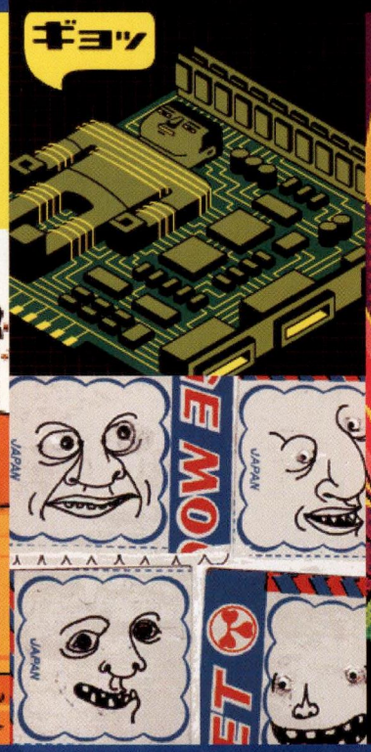
WD: Where do your animations fit into what you do – are they merely experiments or do you hope to fit them into commercial projects?
AP: Primarily they are just experiments in Flash, but I would love to incorporate them into a live VJ presentation with DJs and live music at some point. I have been working with a friend on a little Flash VJ tool at **www.apakstudio.com/spiro.**

WD: Are there any particular projects you've done that have given you the most pride?
AP: We really like the handpainted toys we did for Tado (**tado.co.uk**) and Playlounge (**playlounge.co.uk**) for the Qee Expo in May. Also, we did a big painting for *Cane* Magazine (**cranemagazine.com**) which we're really proud of. It was nice to take a break from using the computer for a while and get messy.

WD: What kind of things does Apak Studio have going on at the moment?
AP: Right now we're working on some products that will be available for purchase through the site... T-shirts, stickers, books and a few other handcrafted items available in 2005. Aside from that, we are collaborating with a number of people on some exciting new projects that should pop up soon!

You can find out more by stopping by at www.apakstudio.com
<END>





TIGER BEER

IF YOU THOUGHT ORIENTAL LAGER LACKED ANY REAL BITE, **MARK BILLEN**'S EXPOSÉ ON TIGER BEER'S STUNNING NEW WEB SITE COULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO THINK AGAIN

Writing the introductory segment for this feature can sometimes be a little difficult. The aim is to gently set the scene on a truly amazing site and hopefully spark your interest in the exclusive expert insight that follows.

This month's outstanding example, however, has been a bit tricky to trivialise in the usual way. It suffers not only from bucking the trend for the type of site it falls into, but also through its connections to issue 96's run-in with Pot Noodle. They go together hand in glove in a culinary sense, especially when you consider that the latest product hails from the most noodle-crazy nation on the planet.

"THE BEVERAGE FEATURES IN VIETNAMESE BAPTISMS AND WAS A HIT WITH THE FORCES"

Tiger Beer is a Far Eastern institution that has been in mainstream production since 1932, and has gone on to ship successfully to over 50 countries across the globe. As well as inspiring *Clockwork Orange* author Anthony Burgess to write *Time for a Tiger* after his oriental travels during the Fifties, the beverage also features in Vietnamese baptisms and was a hit with stationed forces during World War Two.

It's since been heralded as 'Positively the best beer in the world' by *The Washingtonian* magazine and called 'The world's best lager beer' by 1998's Brewing Industry International Awards. One also suspects it won't be long before the company's European sites attract the same kind of attention for their ingenious leverage of the brand image.

Anyone who comes across **www.tigerbeer.co.uk** can instantly see that an attempt has been made to flesh out a complete experience, drawing on Tiger's heritage and oriental style in equal measures. The combination of beautifully illustrated imagery and delicate slices of animation serves up a refreshingly varied batch of content which anyone can enjoy.

Design team Onscreen Creative, formerly Roswell Media, was enlisted on a project that intriguingly spanned Reiki, Horoscopes and its own cartoon series. We tracked down one of the people closest to the action and got the inside story.

BRAND-TASTIC

A noticeable aspect of the Tiger Beer sites is how the brand is intertwined with the original vision both parties must have had for it. This blurring of the boundaries between the product and its digital identity suggests a working synergy that Tiger and Onscreen Creative were very lucky to find.

Indeed, if a thoughtful Credits page hadn't given deserved nods to the design team, any passer-by would have been forgiven for thinking it was all achieved under one roof – albeit against the odds. "Roswell Media had no prior working relationship with Tiger Beer, and did not present the most cost-friendly proposal," recalls Tiger's European Market Director, Ang Chong Lee. "However, the agency won the contract based on its creative

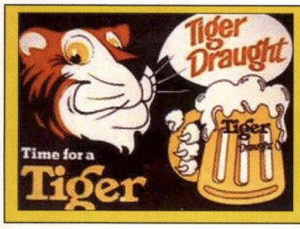
SITE STATS

NAME:	Tiger Beer
URL:	www.tigerbeer.co.uk
DESIGNED BY:	Onscreen Creative (formerly Roswell Media)
EFFORT:	Four months of site development time, with animation work spanning six months
KEY PERSONNEL:	Tim Dillon (Creative Head and Project Coordinator), Rob Thompson (Head of Development), Scott Lyons (Planning and Support), Jamie Reid and Dillan McNeish (Animation), Aneil Bedi (M&C Saatchi), Jacke Tan (Creative and Calligraphy Support), Ang Chong Lee (Tiger Beer)
HISTORY:	Site went live in March

As you can see from the above, the designers have done a really great job of fusing exciting Flash design with traditional Far Eastern culture

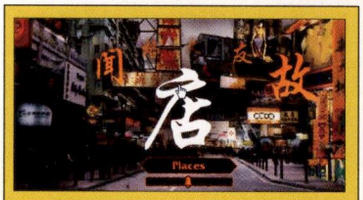
KEY FEATURES

Find out more about what makes the Tiger Beer site stand out from the crowd



Ad aware

After a presentation on the brewery, part of the History section is dedicated to past ad campaigns. You'll see a reel of old black and white posters, promotional material from the Fifties, and stills from Tiger's first TV ad.

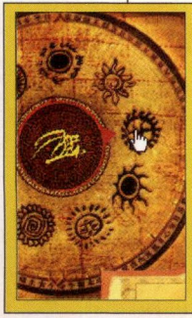


Makeover

Revisiting the site or hitting Refresh gives it an instant facelift, with a random choice of three picturesque menu images. This 'Living and Breathing' concept, as termed by the designers, was included to add a little variety to the overall look.

Cartoon club

The three downloadable episodes from 'The Saga of Antosu' will all eventually be made available from the site, but there's more than enough to have a look at for the time being. A superb gallery of raw sketches from the series accompanies a nice background into the production history.

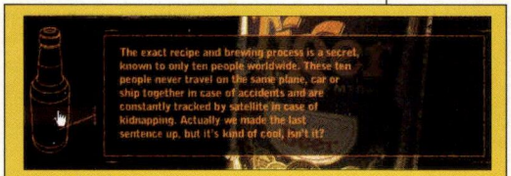


Star signs

If reading about famous Asian festivals doesn't float your boat, the horoscope reading facility is a lot of fun. All you have to do is enter your birth date and the results can be quite uncanny – even for those of us who don't believe in that kind of thing...

Symbol as that

The undoubted star of the Culture section has to be the applet that teaches visitors to draw a range of oriental characters. Not only do you get everything you need to sketch out and replay your efforts, but an interesting history of Eastern calligraphy also awaits.



Bottled it

Even the story behind the iconic Tiger Beer bottle is laid out in interactive glory. Flash animation has been used to deliver descriptions about the product design and manufacturer as the cursor rolls over each corresponding hotspot.

response to the client's brief, and the fruitful early discussions which convinced the client that the agency understood their styling demands."

It was then a case of establishing the kind of creative direction the developers could take after carefully considering the brand's remit. Much of the early phases were about understanding the product's advertising traditions and general mythology. The scope could then be widened to explore graphical influences that were synonymous with both the area of origin and Eastern culture in general.

"The initial styling directions were outlined in the job brief, but the agency conducted numerous in-depth discussions with the client and studied multiple sources of primary brand material – archival photos from Singapore, brand materials, kung fu movies from Asia, etc," Lee explains. "The styling efforts were meticulously reviewed to ensure that the audio-visual semiotics remain faithful to Tiger Beer's advertising – opulent oriental settings, colour-saturated richness, high-contrast lighting effects, an aura of mystery."

Keeping the visual style true to the established look of the brand also meant that the site would remain relevant for the foreseeable future. This would give content a viable shelf-life and prevent subsequent makeovers in favour of gradual additions or expansions of existing sections.

"In the future, the Far Eastern premise will be regularly revisited and elaborated in new ways by means of content additions and further local customisation," admits Lee. "For example, new sections may be incorporated to reflect new sponsorship alignments."

ANIMATION ARMY

After four months of intense design work and a vital beta-testing period, the multilingual Web sites officially went live at the start of this year. Although Onscreen Creative took a leading role in production, a multitude of collaborators were involved throughout the project's lifecycle.

This was mainly down to Tiger commissioning a series of unique animated films that would eventually be incorporated into the site's 'Play' area. Itself spanning six months and still ongoing, 'The Saga of Antosu' is a three-episode series that draws on big-budget Hollywood marketing to breathe additional life into the brand. "The animations were an early part of the project's creative plan," says Lee. "They perform the same task for the Tiger Web site, and promote it further than traditional banners and online advertising through their ability to be downloaded and emailed during viral advertising."

Directors Jamie Reid and Dillan McNeish were responsible for showcasing the illustrative talents of Tekura Maeva, and the results have gone on to spawn a DVD and standalone site at **www.thesagaofantosu.com**. A willingness to veer away from traditional promotional devices also benefited the site's direction in other exciting areas. Visitors to the superb 'Culture' section will find interactive guides on ancient relaxation techniques, interpreting oriental calligraphy, and even a chart describing Far Eastern festivals.

"The content is intended to position the site a step away from most corporate sites by elaborating on Tiger Beer's Far Eastern heritage in an entertaining and involving way – making it more than an online brand brochure," explains Lee. "The site also reinvented previous print materials, produced adding interaction and animation."

MELTING POT

Another prevailing team attitude was in the way they realised the many ideas proposed. Instead of just settling on a certain toolset or development approach, the designers used a selection of industry standard software to achieve a mixture of results. "The focus was on the creative approach and how to realise that across the different media, from flat HTML template designs through to hand-drawn animated sequences," recalls Lee. "We wanted to build a hybrid site that was a mix of techniques, and would be less definable as just a Flash or HTML site, and more a mix of media."

One area that benefited from this policy was the choice of delivery for the 'Saga of Antosu' episodes. Instead of opting for the same Flash solution behind the section intro sequences or dynamic menus, new avenues were explored to prevent compromising the content itself. "We had a good structure plan from the outset, and took time to choose the right formats to use across the site," Lee confirms. "We chose to supply our animation series in QuickTime and Windows Media format over the newer Flash video techniques, as this was more faithful to the project media."

One far simpler feature to put together was the alternating themes of the opening home page – yet the team looks back on this with most fondness. Nicknamed the 'Living and Breathing' concept, it allows the main scheme to randomly change between an Asian cityscape, rural village and ancient temple. "This technical setup gives the site a facelift when a user returns to it," beams Lee. "It helps maintain a visual freshness when the browser is refreshed or upon a new visit."

So, just another reason to visit one of the year's most attractive and innovative URLs then... ■

"VISITORS TO THE CULTURE SECTION WILL FIND GUIDES ON ANCIENT RELAXATION, ORIENTAL CALLIGRAPHY, AND EVEN A CHART DESCRIBING FAR EASTERN FESTIVALS"

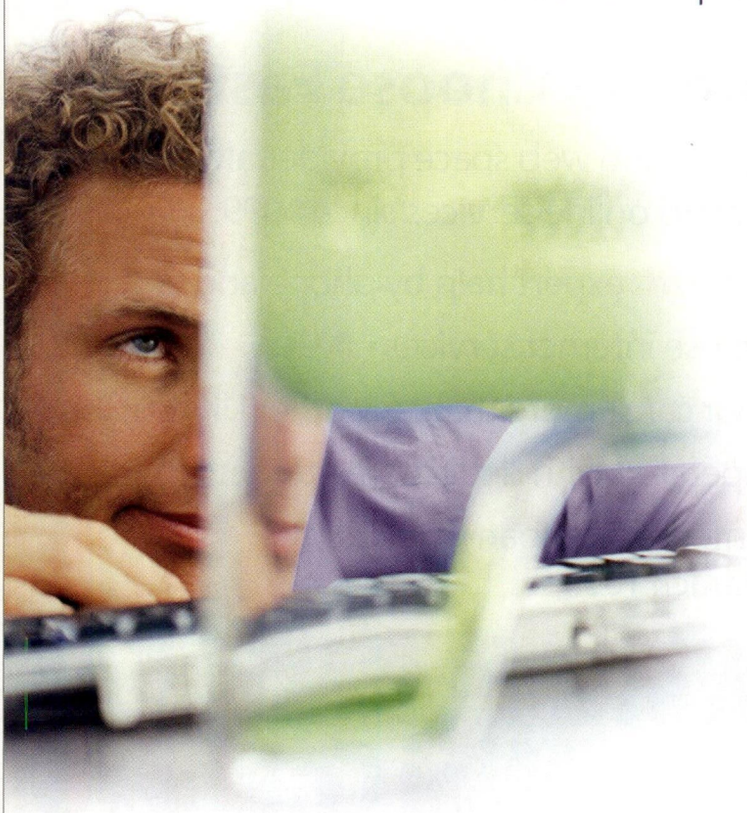
■ Far from being an additional marketing gimmick, the extra animated content has taken on a life of its own

■ Tiger's interactive guides on oriental calligraphy are among the Web site's biggest highlights

Dedicated Servers

Your server headaches: reliability, security, back up support, speed, scalabilty?

Dedicated Servers makes it simple.



Forget your server and all the worries. Leave it to us. Dedicated Servers gives you absolute peace of mind. Being part of PIPEX, a Tier 1 ISP with 4 purpose built datacentres and multiple connections to the internet, you can have total reassurance that your business will be on-line. Whether you require a dedicated server for mission critical applications, fully functioning e-commerce businesses or fully managed servers, Dedicated Servers has 9 years of experience providing innovative tailor made and pre-built solutions that deliver.

We offer exceptionally fast set up across whichever operating system suits your needs. Your tailored, easy to use control panel is a manager's dream: make changes for optimisation, ask for help and make upgrades quickly and effortlessly. We won't ever leave you hanging – you'll get unlimited, free technical support 24/7/365, reboots within 30 minutes of request and specific SLA to meet your business' requirements. Finally, when it comes to price, make your own comparisons. So when you want reliable, scalable, secure hosting and the latest technology that meets your specific needs, all running at its optimum and without the headaches, Dedicated Servers makes it simple.

See more at www.dedicated-servers.co.uk

To order online, visit www.dedicated-servers.co.uk
or call us on 0870 333 0877 today

We also offer a Partnership programme,
find out more at www.dedicated-servers.co.uk

PIPEX broadband; the professional's choice of broadband Internet connection.
See what we mean at www.WebFusion.co.uk

PIPEX®

No ties! No download limits

UK's best deal for broadband

Voted UK's Number 1 by TopHosts.com

World's largest Windows 2003 host

NETCRAFT

.net BEST BUY www.netmag.co.uk

Save time & money. Choose Fasthosts!

We're the UK's largest email and web space provider, always innovating to deliver superb online services since 1999.

Free 24/7 technical support: expert help by phone and email.

Award winning easy to use internet services - **.Net Mag best buy.**

1 million websites in our care - more than any other UK host.

100% UK based and operated with dedicated internet facilities.

UK's fastest growing internet company ranked by The Sunday Times' Techtrack 100.

Microsoft CERTIFIED Partner

Win a fantastic Mini Cooper S!

Sign up and win!

Sign up today and you could win one of two fab New Minis! Visit **www.fasthosts.co.uk/mini**

Hurry, offer closes 31st October 2004

Don't miss out, call

0870 888 3772

Only from Fasthosts Broadband

✔ **Free** migration ✔ **Free** domain ✔ **No** download limits
✔ **Flat** monthly fee ✔ **Free** hosting ✔ **24/7** tech support

512

- 512 Kbps: 10 x faster than dialup
- 50:1 contention ratio
- Always-on internet connection
- Doesn't tie up your phone line
- 24/7 technical support
- Ideal to get online for surfing, email, music, photos and gaming

£19.99
Flat monthly fee + VAT

1024

- 1 Mbps: 20 x faster than dialup
- 50:1 contention ratio
- Always-on connection
- 24/7 technical support
- Doesn't tie up your phone line
- Great for Xbox Live and Playstation Network Gaming
- Share your home movies

£31.99
Flat monthly fee + VAT

1024 plus

- 1 Mbps: 20 x faster than dialup
- 20:1 contention ratio
- Static IP address
- Spam filtering
- Virus scanning
- 24/7 technical support
- Connect up to 15 office PCs
- Connect to your office with virtual private networking

Ideal for networks

£36.99
Flat monthly fee + VAT

2048 plus

- 2 Mbps: 40 x faster than dialup
- 20:1 contention ratio
- Static IP address
- Spam filtering
- Virus scanning
- 24/7 technical support
- One of the UK's cheapest 2 Mbps
- Connect remote workers with virtual private networking
- Connect up to 30 office PCs
- Ideal for voice over IP
- Leased line benefits at a fraction of the cost
- Run advanced services
- Video conferencing

Max Broadband Package

£55.99
Flat monthly fee + VAT

Amazing features all included

✔ **FREE Full unique domain name**
Buy Fasthosts Broadband today to **secure your own unique** .co.uk or .com internet **domain name** (www. mydomain.com), before someone else does.

✔ **FREE 15 professional email accounts**
Send and receive email from your **professional domain name** (me@mydomain.com), using POP3 email software or our instant, **easy web mail**.

✔ **FREE 100 MB web space for your own website**
Get your own **professional website** running in minutes! Upload with FTP or let us do the hard work, and use our **easy website creation tool**.

✔ **Choose a modem or router**
High speed internet for one computer, or home and office networks. Choose a modem or router from us, starting at just £25, or provide your own.

✔ **NO TIES No long term commitment**
Enjoy **total flexibility** with Fasthosts Broadband! **No contractual obligations** after your first month. Move away for **free** whenever you like.

£50 setup fee for new customers. Free migration subject to a minimum 3 month contract.

100% FREE to migrate to Fasthosts

"Fasthosts could be all you're looking for."
Broadband World

broadband world

"The web space, domain name, and other extras make Fasthosts Broadband an attractive package."
.net magazine

.net

Don't miss out, sign up today

fasthosts.co.uk

fasthosts

BUILD AMAZING SITES THAT WORK

WORDS: NICK SWEENEY AND MARK BILLEN IMAGERY: I LOVE DUST

As a designer, your first consideration should be the needs of your visitors. Find out how to make their life easier!

It's not glamorous and it's not sexy. It doesn't generate instant hits or earn 'oohs' and 'ahs' from visitors. And yet, usability is the most important topic in Web design today.

If it's a topic that's unfamiliar to you, you're forgiven – we're just as guilty of overlooking it here at *Web Designer*. Compared to the latest Flash or multimedia techniques, site usability is hard to get excited about. But with modern browsers now equipped to deliver more stable and sophisticated sites, and increased legal and commercial scrutiny placed on their makers, the time to start thinking seriously about user-centred design is right now.

"Usability is the measure of the quality of a user's experience when interacting with a product or system – whether a Web site, a software application, mobile technology or user-operated device." (**www.usability.gov**)

So what is it that makes a site optimised for usability? This isn't an easy question, because every one of the visitors that stops by a URL will have a different view of how effective it is in meeting their needs. As a designer, it is your responsibility to do everything you can to meet the requirements of the people you want to target, and above all, to be open to their suggestions for improvement.

You may want to make sure that your prowess in Flash or ability to create Photoshop graphics is pushed to the fore, but if it hinders the user experience, you'll need to think again. Only after doing all you can to improve general usability for the wider audience can you go on to consider catering for those minority groups that need better levels of accessibility.

WHAT IT ALL MEANS

It may seem strange, but in the earliest days of the Web, when backgrounds were grey, links were blue and Flash was something you used to clean your floors, most sites ranked fairly highly in terms of basic usability. (To get a feel for the old-school Web, take a look at the Wayback Machine's archive at **web.archive.org**.) But as more people started creating sites and browsers became capable of handling complex layouts, things got pretty messy. Without any real guidelines or standards, designers were basically experimenting as they went along. By the late Nineties, it was more common to see self-indulgent, buggy designs that sacrificed usability and accessibility in favour of the latest and greatest technology – first background images, then frames, then Java applets, JavaScript and Flash effects.

When experts such as Jakob Nielsen came along, their advice was simple: just because you can do it, it doesn't mean you should. By stripping away unnecessary elements and paying attention to the needs, habits and instincts of Web users, you could build sites that were easier to use.

"Usability is a quality attribute that assesses how easy user interfaces are to use. The word 'usability' also refers to methods for improving ease-of-use during the design process." (Jakob Nielsen)

USABILITY VERSUS ACCESSIBILITY

A big mistake many people make is to confuse usability with accessibility. Not only are the two very different, but the tendency seems to be that one is deemed less important than the other. Although they must both be taken seriously, it's true that many of the ideals surrounding accessibility still apply to usability and vice versa.

Optimising a site's usability will help to make it more accessible, or at least provide a better frame to build upon. If your wider audience finds the site hard to use, it'll almost certainly be problematic for those with disabilities or learning difficulties. By the same token, the degree of consideration that goes into addressing accessibility is just as valid when it comes to usability. Just because there's no physical or cognitive reason why your target audience should struggle, it doesn't mean your designs can be

unwieldy. The same amount of effort in researching what works best for the average user is applicable, and will be rewarded with a barrage of hits.

PUTTING THE USER FIRST

If you strip all the fancy stuff away from Web design, pages are ultimately being built for people to use. Forget showcasing every Flash gimmick you can muster from your repertoire or bombarding people's browsers with bandwidth-busting images, and you're left with providing the best content delivery service you can offer. Before you even start formulating ideas or beginning to think about firing up Dreamweaver, you should have it clear in your mind that usability is about putting the needs of the user first. Remember that designing anything from shoes to sites is judged on how the final product performs.

This will then help you conduct one of the most important stages in most design processes and especially software engineering: requirements elicitation. Most professional new media agencies will already be familiar with this procedure, and will use it to establish a stable understanding of what it is the user expects to see, with project success dependent upon meeting it. Whether you are being commissioned to create a site for a specific client or hope to launch something that will more directly attract traffic, it will be an essential exercise to acknowledge what the end user's expectations are.

REQUIREMENTS ELICITATION

The key point to remember about understanding user requirements is that you're unlikely to get them spot-on first time. This means that a consistent stream of communication throughout the design process is paramount to getting as close to their expectations as possible. Talking to the users, recording what they say and trying to pin down exactly what they mean is the only surefire way to meet their needs.

It's also important to bear in mind that the people you're designing for are not necessarily privy to the kind of 'developer speak' you might be comfortable using. This is where the production of graphical diagrams or descriptive case studies can be effectively used to portray how you see the project going. Navigational flowcharts, example site maps and perhaps data-flow diagrams for eCommerce solutions are all good ways of presenting complex info without bewildering others with technical jargon.

Similarly, there's no reason why a shared direction for the way visual elements are going can't be achieved with page mock-ups. Flat digital drawings of possible template designs can be put forward and scrutinised, before a period of prototyping more sophisticated page elements, interfaces and navigational structures gets under way.

PROFESSIONAL HELP

If you're not overly keen on conducting widespread usability studies yourself, or perhaps realise that it isn't viable, you can always rely on the services of others.

Professional consultancies or specialist agencies are common, and offer a range of complete solutions that span all the major processes. Usually they will also give your site a preliminary evaluation to ascertain whether it really requires the full usability treatment, and how best to pursue everything. It then really comes down to identifying what needs and goals are motivating the Web site, or establishing what it's expected to achieve. This can lead to a detailed analysis of what the target demographic will be, so a cross-section of the audience group can be studied.

PIONEERS OF ACCESSIBILITY

Jakob Nielsen
(www.useit.com)

If you've been building sites for any length of time, you'll know of Jakob Nielsen. He's the Pierluigi Collina of the Web – a firm but fair judge of what makes sites usable. Nielsen rose to prominence in the mid-Nineties when cross-browser bugs and self-indulgent design were rife. His mission: to get people building sites that reflected the needs of the people who used them.

While Jakob gets some unfair ribbing from modern designers – there was recently an unofficial competition to create an accessible redesign of useit.com – he was among the first to promote the WAI's accessibility guidelines, and talk about the need to shift from the 'one-size-fits-all' model of Web usability to a flexible, template-driven approach that adapted to the needs of particular groups. And even now, his basic principles of usability go hand in hand with the specific techniques which make the Web more accessible.

Mark Pilgrim
(www.diveintomark.com)

Mark Pilgrim strongly influenced the shift from usability towards accessibility. His 'Dive Into Accessibility' (2002) translated the technical prose of the WAI content guidelines into a step-by-step guide to building more accessible sites.

Pilgrim's interest in accessibility stems from his work as a relay operator for AT&T, working alongside blind and deaf people. As he puts it, "My job brought me into the world of disability and disabled tech, and all the incredible ways people have figured out to compensate for various limitations. So when I got involved in the Web, it was obvious to me that it should be accessible to everyone."

The biggest impact of 'Dive Into Accessibility' came from its use of 'personas': sketches of fictional users with varying degrees of disability and the methods they use to access the Web. By giving a human face to the problems of accessibility, Pilgrim helped remove misconceptions and challenge complacency.

Joe Clark
(www.joeclark.com)

Joe Clark has been an accessibility evangelist for 25 years, and has put pressure on every branch of the mass media to buck up its act.

He first campaigned for subtitling, putting pressure on TV stations to produce captions that didn't short-change deaf viewers. When DVDs appeared, his campaign expanded to persuade film companies to include audio commentary tracks alongside subtitles, so blind/visually impaired people could hear what's on-screen.

As the Web grew popular, Clark began researching different accessibility issues, even before the the WAI content guidelines appeared in 1999. But he's also passionate in arguing that accessibility isn't simply a 'disabled rights' issue – it's about promoting sites that follow published standards and are built to last.

And Clark's not one to pull his punches: he's out to reclaim the Web from 'boy-racer programmers' and 'clueless dockers-wearing manager dweebs', so don't get in his way!

A sample of 'typical users' will usually be asked to attend testing sessions that will observe participants as they experience the site. This can range from simply asking them to navigate through the content freely for a certain length of time, to setting them certain tasks and scenarios.

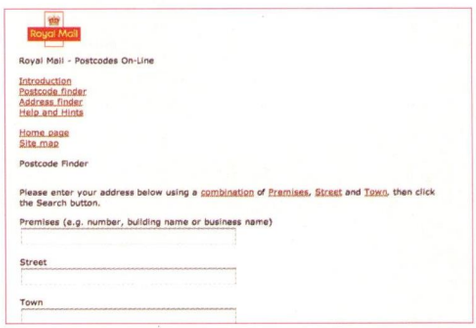
While encouraged to 'think aloud' at all times, their feedback is monitored and recorded either by sophisticated tracking software or by video. Designers are encouraged to sit in on the sessions and hear how users perceive the site, and perhaps whatever improvements they might suggest. At the finish, all participants are asked to submit their overall impressions of the site during thorough interview sessions. All the findings are then compiled into detailed reports that will form the foundation of any future design revisions and new projects that arise from the findings.

CONDUCTING USER SURVEYS

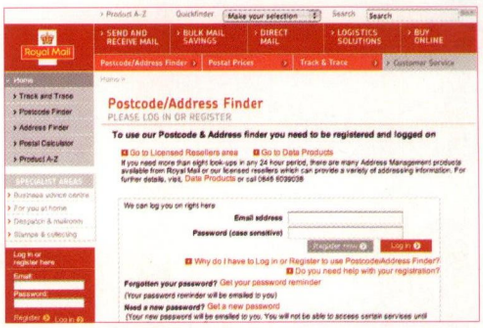
When rounding together a sample of your users isn't a realistic option, there are other ways of getting feedback. Many sites will include email addresses or contact forms so visitors can submit their thoughts, but this doesn't ensure that you'll receive the kind of valuable response you want. It can be more useful to provide electronic questionnaires that will gauge user opinion more effectively.

Using a specialist program such as Quask's FormArtist will allow you to publish sophisticated interactive surveys quickly and easily. The benefit here is that the results can be logged to a server before a more detailed statistical analysis can be processed and interpreted when administering any practical improvements. Similarly, there are some off-the-shelf software solutions that will perform remote evaluations of user actions as they happen in real time. This kind of approach must be made clearly known to visitors before they participate, as tracking their behaviours covertly would compromise areas of the data protection act, and certainly result in mistrust if it were discovered.

However, some interesting data pertaining to areas of the site or the actual interface would be revealed from the way different people approach the content. Just by tracking link paths or cursor activity, you would be able to ascertain how navigation was perceived, and perhaps how effective the visual signposts such as menus, buttons, anchors and



■ The original Postcode/Address Finder site from the Royal Mail did not make provision for visitors with disabilities and special needs



■ The updated Postcode/Address Finder site is far more accessible and easier to use for visitors with sight or hearing difficulties

banners are at directing the actions of your audience. This perhaps provides one of the truest pictures of user perception, because the subject is likely to behave as they naturally would when casually surfing the Web.

When under more strict 'lab' conditions they may feel pressured by the environment or the presence of an examiner, or feel conscious of the time they are taking to perform. It would also have an adverse effect if they were expected to use hardware, peripherals, Operating Systems or browsing software that they may not be acquainted with.

By making judgements on how typical visitors interact with the site in their own homes or workplaces, it will help to differentiate how the novice or experienced user fares without any disruptions.

board, while also enabling you to explore other avenues of user provision and support.

A popular solution in accessibility circles is to build multiple style sheets into the design of every page so that colours, layouts and text styles can be switched to suit the needs of a diverse audience. This can also be a technique for improving usability, because it gives more choice and control over how the user views the site itself. Rather than focusing merely on making content more legible for disabled visitors, the logical extension of this idea would be to mirror the many usability mechanisms that feature within an Operating System such as Windows.

The desktop metaphor has continued to evolve in a direction that makes the personalisation of a workspace paramount, with menus, interface schemes, wallpapers and icons all able to be tailored independently. This has resulted in an environment that isn't constrained by one universal view, and can be adapted to meet the needs of different workloads, moods, tastes, requirements and abilities. Translating this kind of capability onto the Web may not be the simplest trick in the world, but the potential for letting users configure a design that works best for them shouldn't be overlooked.

> "The production formula for a 100 per cent usable site that will never need changes hasn't been found yet"

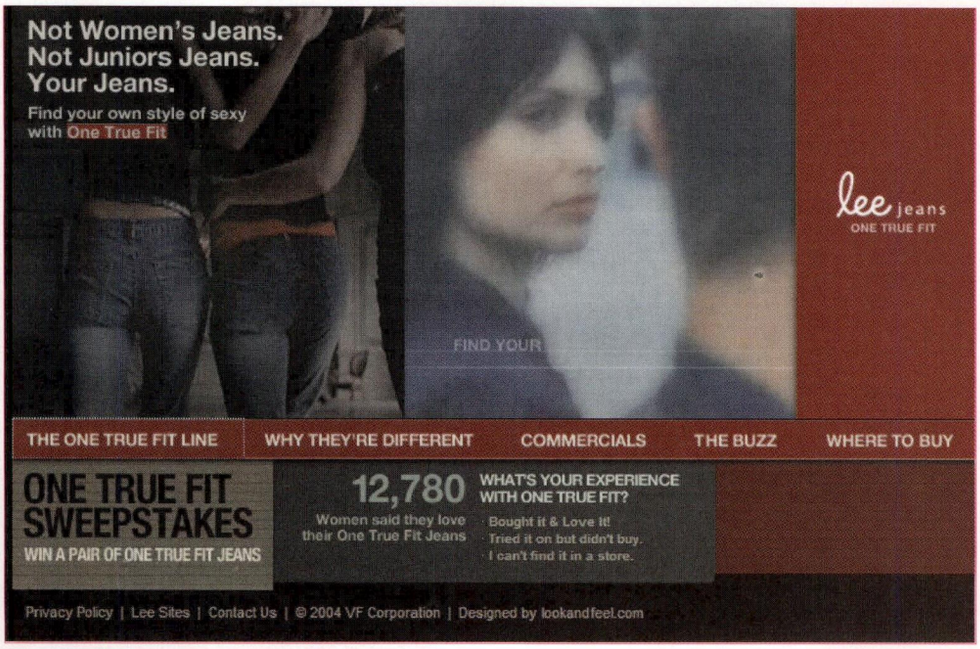
USABILITY IN PRACTICE

Adhering to 'better practice' development techniques such as CSS will go a long way to improving your site's usability potential. While not necessarily ensuring a more user-centred design, this will be beneficial to the kind of regular maintenance you may need to perform on your pages.

The great thing about using style sheets in particular is that you don't have to rip out inline tag formatting to tweak how everything looks or behaves. Remember that the production formula for a 100 per cent usable site that will never require any changes certainly hasn't been found as yet, and you'll more than likely want to gradually hone a live design in accordance with user response. CSS will provide much of the flexibility needed to do this without going all the way back to the drawing

ROLE-PLAYING GAMES

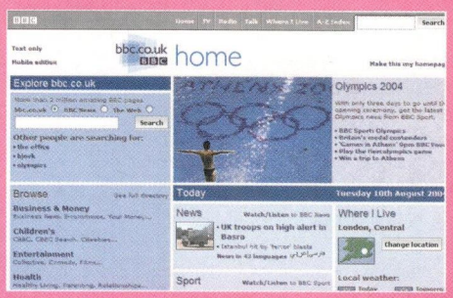
Anyone familiar with 'user-centred design' will know that working with 'personas', or pen-portraits of potential users, helps you apply abstract principles of Web usability to a site. Personas are also great for translating accessibility guidelines, because they force you to think about



■ Lee Jeans marks the latest generation of accessible sites that manage to maintain a healthy mix of usability and Flash

SITES THAT FAIL

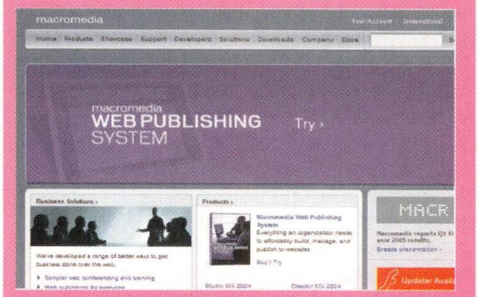
We're all used to the biggest and best sites on the Web boasting of their accessible status, but according to Bobby (**bobby.watchfire.com**), things aren't always what they seem. Here's how some sites fell foul.



BBC

(www.bbc.co.uk)

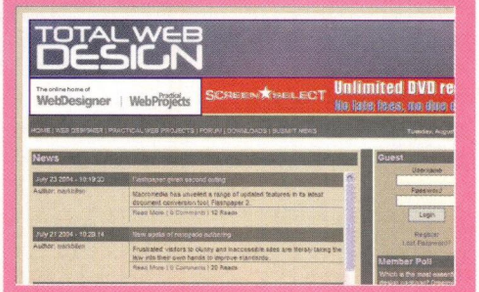
While the Bbc pioneered the use of text-only pages and created the Betsie reformatting tool (**www.bbc.co.uk/cgi-bin/education/betsie/parser.pl**) to strip down sites to bare text for screenreaders, it's lagging behind in terms of integrated accessibility. The big problems are its use of absolute (pixel-based) sizing, tables, and a layout that's hard to navigate without a mouse.



Macromedia

(www.macromedia.com)

Macromedia has improved access to its site: XHTML and CSS are used in a smart way, while the first tabbed link is to a page dedicated to accessibility. But the need to promote Flash means, as the site admits, that users 'may experience some bugs when... using assistive devices'. The HTML alternative is another example of accessibility being compromised by commercial values.



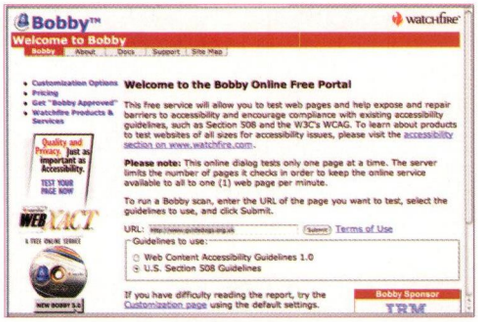
Total Web Design

(www.total-web-design.com)

It may be a great resource for site builders, but we admit it needs work as far as accessibility goes. The hyphenated URL causes problems for people with voice-activated browsers. The frame-based layout is unwieldy (and doesn't adapt well to text-only viewing). The text fonts can't be resized, and the colour scheme could do with a bit more contrast. Trust us: we're working on it!

FEATURE

BUILD AMAZING SITES THAT WORK



■ Bobby is one of the most popular accessibility evaluation tools, and is a Web-based service dedicated to checking other sites against some of the key standards

how your target users, including those who are blind or unable to use a mouse, would perform the most common or crucial tasks within your site, such as navigating a menu or checking out an order. Of course, it's only an approximation of how all people use the Web, but by having these issues in mind when you start building pages, you're less likely to end up with messy 'retrofits' to include further usability or accessibility features.

HOLDING THE USER'S HAND

Many of the most basic practical design tips are actually the most important when it comes to usability. Apart from developing solutions for the specific expectations of the users you're trying to target, it will be equally important to ensure that nobody gets lost among all the content.

Doing your best to counteract this can range from remembering to give every page an accurate and appropriate title, to carefully modularising everything into more palatable sections. Text-heavy content should be presented in a way that pushes the most valuable info to the fore without baffling or overwhelming anyone.

Similarly, you'd be surprised how easy it is to lose novice users when pages extend beyond the length of the screen. Many people fail to realise that the browser's scrollbar is there to help gain access to document areas that otherwise would be ignored. Keeping your site real estate compact will therefore help to deliver things in short bursts and will also ensure that important navigational controls are always clearly visible.

Guiding visitors effectively around the site has to be considered a priority, and requires a narrative structure that reassures the user as they go about their business. This needn't demand much from a coding perspective, and can easily be achieved with a good use of headings and a consistent instructional voice. However, more sophisticated aids like dedicated help or FAQ pages will go a long way to raising user confidence if things go awry.

You might also want to consider the implementation of dynamic tools like rollover tips or info dialogs. JavaScript-driven layers are perfect for quickly realising these kinds of features, with many online code libraries happy to let you download the listings with no fuss at all. As long as you remember to stick to the established conventions that characterise most of the interfaces your users will be familiar with, it's unlikely your designs will go far wrong.

THE ROAD AHEAD

As far as navigation goes, the roots of how well it works should be traceable to the planning put into the original site map. It's here that you should have ironed out any inadequacies in the way page links are structured, before translating it for real. But this isn't to say that errors or oversights won't be made during the practical process.

Take advantage of Dreamweaver's built-in checking and reporting tools for analysing link tags, browser support, code syntax and spelling. The last thing any designer wants to do is lose visitors to bad links or find the flow is interrupted by a page loophole that can't be escaped.

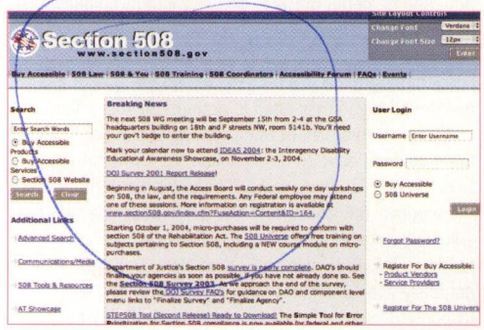
In this instance, alternative routes of navigation may prove both beneficial and more troublesome as you increase the site's complexity. Giving visitors a number of different pathways to the same destination is sure to give you a bigger headache, but the impact on usability will be immeasurable. Visitors will appreciate the option of either leaping to the info directly or taking a more roundabout journey when casually surfing.

This is something that a good many commercial sites, and particularly search engines, will do whenever they decide a general revamp is called for. Kelkoo's recent re-jig to their pan European domains made a real point of cutting back on the number of pages shoppers would have to traverse to reach the products they wanted. By allowing direct keyword searches, along with general category fishing, multiple results listings and the selection of suggested items from their database, they consciously thought about how best to cater for their market, and have gone some way to improve usability in the process.

ACCESS ALL AREAS

There are still too many misconceptions surrounding Web accessibility. It isn't just a 'disabled thing', it's not simply a question of providing text-only alternatives, and most of all it doesn't mean sacrificing the look and feel of your site. If done properly, the result is a site that's easier to maintain, leaner on bandwidth, and will evolve gracefully as the Web itself continues to evolve and widen its scope.

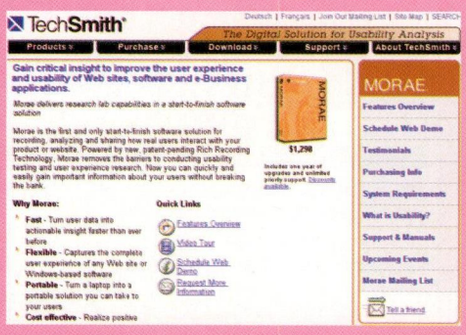
Think of accessibility as the next stage of evolution, reflecting the ever-widening reach of the Web and the maturation of browser technology. The online world these days is far more representative of the offline world, and the special circumstances of many users can't be ignored. At the same time, the coalescence of browser standards, especially CSS, means it's possible to create sites that adapt to personal circumstances and preferences.



■ 'Section 508' is the law which currently covers federal agencies in the United States, and demonstrates the shift towards full accessibility on the Web

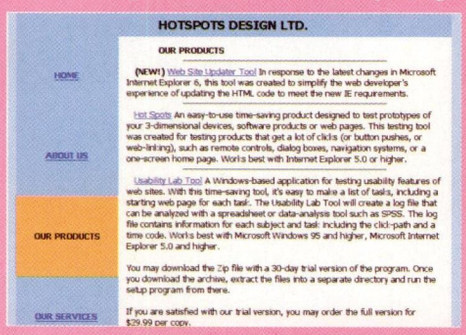
SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS

We round up a trio of off-the-shelf packages that can steer your site towards usability



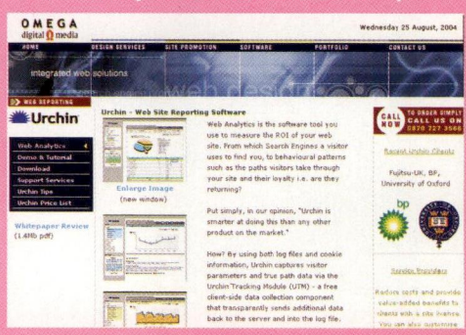
Morae
(www.techsmith.com)

Utilising patent-pending Rich Recording Technology, this unique software has all you need to analyse how users interact with your site. By recording their activities as they happen in a non-confrontational way, it removes the constraints normally associated with laboratory-based usability research. It can be used on a laptop, so detailed evaluations can be taken to the user or done on the move.



Usability Lab Tool
(www.hotspotsdesign.com)

This Windows-based app uses the idea of scenarios to evaluate the usability features within your document designs. Tasks can be defined for the program to automatically carry out, with log files compiled that can be read via spreadsheet or data analysis tools. Click paths and time codes are all recorded, and you can get your hands on a free 30-day trial by visiting the URL above.



Urchin
(www.omegadm.co.uk)

More focused around the statistical analysis of how your visitors arrive at your domain, and then what they actually do, this package from Omega Digital Media will tell the true tale of site performance. Details regarding which search engines are used to find your URL, the paths people take through the content and whether they are returning, are all logged.

BT YAHOO!
Broadband

Superfast BT Yahoo! Broadband 1 Mb from only £29.99 a month.

BT has cut its prices. Now you can get Broadband up to 20 times faster than dial up, up to 25% cheaper.

The complete Broadband package includes:

- Junk mail filter, email virus protection, pop-up ad blocker, parental controls plus PC firewall.
- 11 individual email addresses.
- 100Mb free storage online.

bt.com/getbroadband

0800 328 9041

Free modem & connection when you buy online.

BT

More power to you

Broadband from BT is subject to compatibility, availability and survey. Usage allowances apply. BT or similar line required. 12 month term. Conditions apply.

Old-school usability catered to the needs of the majority. Modern Web accessibility builds upon this by addressing the needs of minority groups, with flexibility built into the heart of site designs.

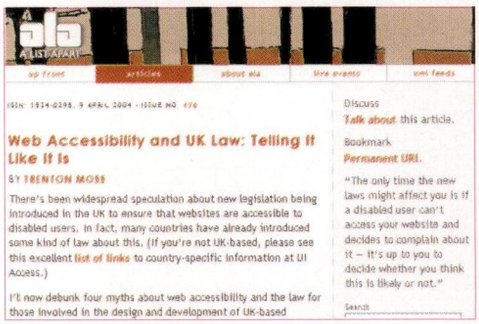
WHY BOTHER?

While it's important to remember that accessibility matters for everyone visiting your site, the greatest benefits are felt by those who find it difficult to browse the Web. The most obvious group is the blind or visually impaired, most of whom rely upon screenreader software to 'speak' the content of pages. The Web has huge potential to enrich the lives of the visually impaired. It's not just the obvious benefits such as reading the daily paper – being able to shop online and have things delivered has helped many blind users maintain their independence.

Visual disabilities come in many other forms. Around two million people in Britain suffer from some form of colour-blindness – for example, the inability to distinguish reds and greens. A badly thought-out colour scheme may render site content invisible to these people. Millions more have poor vision, and limiting the ability to adjust font sizes because of design considerations may turn your site into a blur.

Some users have motor disabilities that make it hard to use a mouse, and rely upon keyboard navigation. Others may not be able to use a keyboard, and depend upon touchscreens or head pointers. In these cases, a carefully designed user interface is vital. And while the Web is primarily a visual medium, a site that relies on multimedia ought to consider the needs of the hearing-impaired, like transcripts for audio or subtitles for video content. Lastly, users with learning and cognitive disabilities, eg dyslexia or aphasia, may have problems visualising the layout of a site or getting to grips with a complex page design.

If all this seems distant, remember that around 20 per cent of the population suffers from some kind of disability. Try closing your eyes then navigating your site. Try moving from page to page without using the mouse. Consider older relatives with arthritis, failing vision or poor hearing. Accessibility isn't someone else's problem!



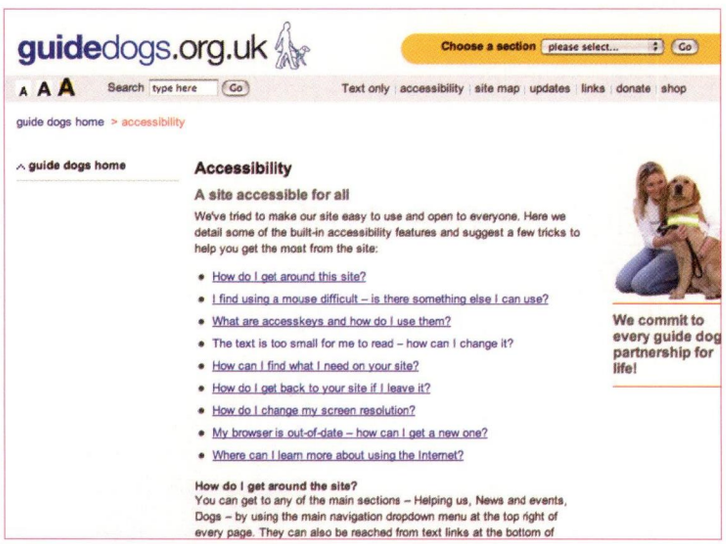
■ There is a legal obligation to make sites accessible. The laws have been in force for a while, but disability groups and government regulators only recently began monitoring sites

> "Being able to shop online has helped many blind users to maintain their independence"

IT'S THE LAW

While there's an obvious moral obligation to make sites accessible, there's also a growing legal one. For many years, the rapid evolution of the Web kept it under the radar of lawmakers. Now that it's in homes, schools and public libraries, and hosts huge commercial enterprises, sites are being judged by the same standards as bricks-and-mortar facilities. The turning point came in 2000, when a blind user in Australia successfully sued IBM because he couldn't navigate its official Sydney Olympics site. (The Athens 2004 site, unsurprisingly, came under heavy scrutiny, and its designers spent huge amounts of time and money to avoid any repeat.)

Many of the laws covering Web accessibility have been in force for a while, but it's only recently that disability groups and government regulators began monitoring sites. So while there's been talk in Britain about the need to make sites accessible by October 2004, when Part 3 of the 1995 Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) comes into law, most of those provisions are already in effect. Since October 1999, all providers of 'goods, facilities or services' have been required to make 'reasonable adjustments' to be accessible for disabled users. And although the DDA doesn't mention sites, the 2002 Disability Discrimination Code of Practice makes it clear that they come under the Act's provisions. In short, if you build sites that are commercial or provide public services, you have a legal duty to make them accessible.



■ The UK Guide Dogs site puts great emphasis on accessibility, giving its visitors a wide choice of built-in features, including changing the screen resolution and size of font, getting a new browser, using access keys and finding an alternative to using the mouse

MEETING THE STANDARDS

By now, you're probably interested in finding out how your own sites measure up in terms of usability and accessibility.

One of the most popular accessibility evaluation tools is Bobby (**bobby.watchfire.com**), a Web-based service dedicated to checking other sites against some of the key standards. Bobby offers two different types of validation: one uses 'Section 508', the law covering federal agencies in the USA (**www.section508.gov**), which doesn't really apply to British developers. The other uses the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) created by the international Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI). It's these guidelines that will most likely back up any complaint filed under the Disability Discrimination Act.

But when it comes to usability, the situation is cloudier. Although many software tools are available, pinning down the standards can be harder, as they are less dependent on detectable elements in your pages, eg tags. The usability and user-centred design arena tends to be dictated by guidelines from the International Standards Organisation. These ISOs are divided into numbered subsets that outline product usage characteristics, interface attributes and the activities in the development process itself. By meeting certain items, such as ISO 9241-12 (1998) Presentation of Information, ISO 9241-13 (1998) User Guidance, and a whole host relating to human-computer interaction or ergonomics, your site could get official accreditation.

USABILITY LINKS

Some great usability-themed URLs are out there, so give your browser a head start with our bookmarks

Usability Partners
www.usabilitypartners.se
This home page for the Swedish consultancy Usability Partners is just an online advert for their services. A number of highly informative sections go to great depths to explain what Web usability really is about, as well as listing many of the relevant ISO standards.

Usable Web
www.usableweb.com
Hardly a candidate for best-looking URL but immensely usable, this site is a collection of 970 links relating to Web usability. Not only will you find all the required reading about the topic that you could dream of, but a list of recommended destinations and influential authors like Bruce Tognazzini awaits.

Webcredible
www.webcredible.co.uk
Webcredible is one of the UK's premiere Web site usability and accessibility specialists, offering a range of evaluation services. This site describes all the things they do, alongside regularly updated news and articles, plus details of how your site can receive their coveted user-friendly Web site certification icon.

Eyetracker
www.eyetracker.co.uk
Wouldn't it be great if you could actually monitor how your site is read by the eyes of a user? Here you can learn all about a revolutionary usability tool that will let you do exactly this, with a number of examples showing the visual trails people make on popular sites such as bbc.co.uk.

Lizzie

DIYDating.com

Free Dating web sites

Create

Your own **Money** Making

Dating Web Site

www.diy-dating.com

Enhance your skills and earn at the same time

100% FREE

Main Site Features

- Free site hosting
- Free and hassle free set-up
- Powerful site manager
- Exciting site features including instant and multimedia messaging
- Comprehensive Site stats
- Free site templates
- Huge database of existing contacts
- Fully customisable using your own images and HTML code
- Adult version available

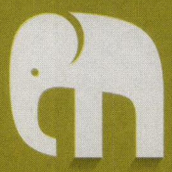
★ **Large range of ready made templates**

For further information visit: **www.diy-dating.com** or phone: **01922 711211**

EASY TO BUY • EASY TO SET UP • EASY TO SEE

one elephant...

Be a host with the most for the least using our world class web hosting services. From just £30 a year.



two elephant...

Do the business brilliantly with our EasyVserver. Launching your own web business has never been so affordable. Choose from 4, 8 or 16 Gigabyte options. There's **no set up fee** and web host manager makes managing multiple domains and email accounts easy.

Count on us for big web benefits

three elephant...

Make a name for yourself with an unforgettable e-mail address from the UK's favourite domain name registrar. Why be boring? Give hotmail the cold shoulder. Give yahoo the old heave-ho. And be unique, such as **nothingon@all.tv, rich@thirty.me.uk, hrh@buckhouse.info tuff@thetop.org.uk.**

From only £3.99 a year.

four elephant...

Access email anytime, anyplace, anywhere with Easypost. That's our brilliant web mail package that enables you to pick up and send email using your domain name, making you look more professional. It's also **anti-spam** and **anti-virus** to ensure you don't pick up anything nasty along the way.

five elephant...

Log on in seconds and refresh your business image the easy way.

Log on now and find out why 1/2 million customers already put us first.

Register at www.easyspace.com

Easyspace

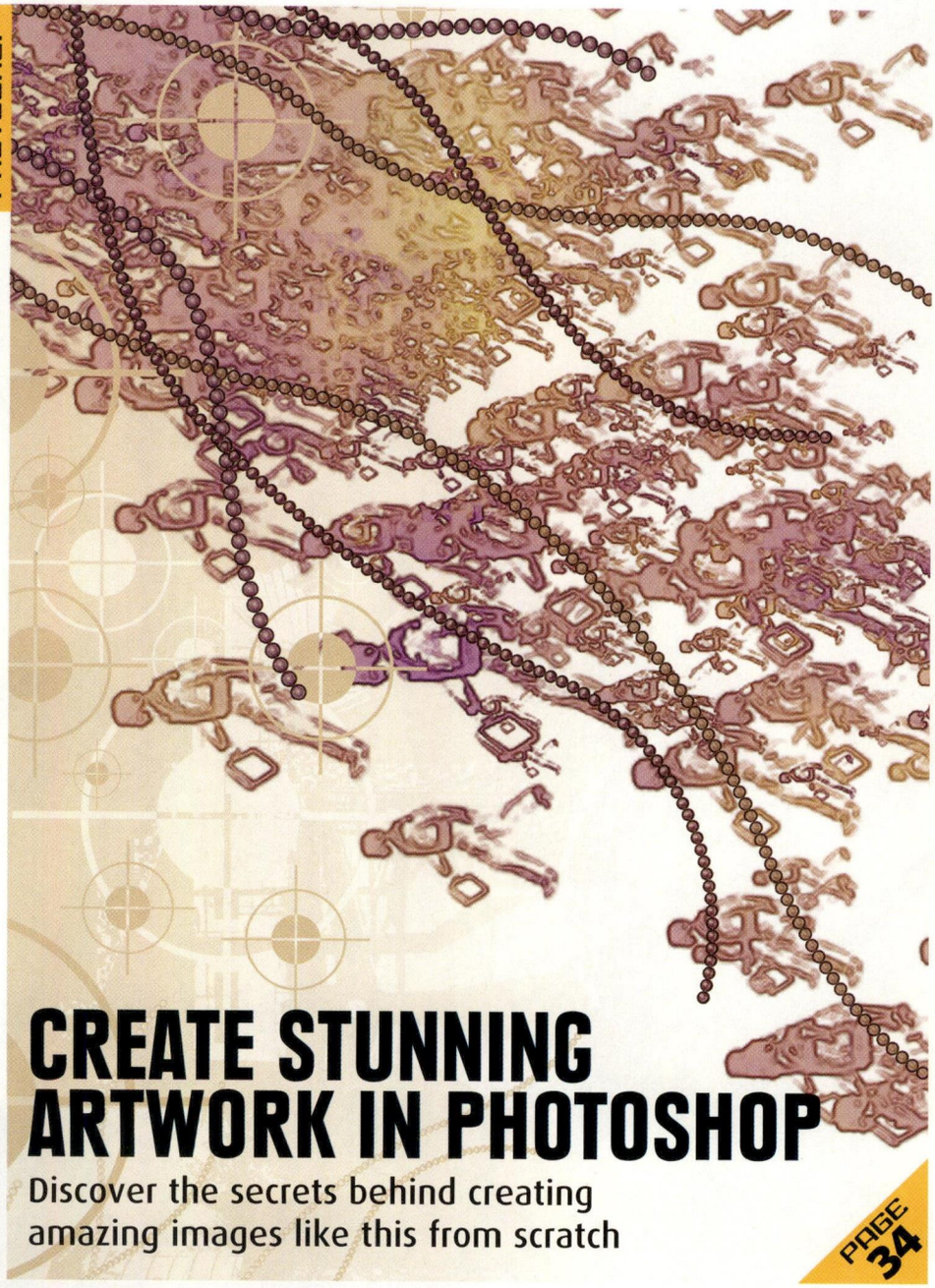
your perfect partner for the web

Established in 1997 with over ½ million customers. Accredited ICANN registrar & nominet member. Prices exclude VAT.

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDES TO BETTER WEB DESIGN

TUTORIALS

PHOTOSHOP



CREATE STUNNING ARTWORK IN PHOTOSHOP

Discover the secrets behind creating amazing images like this from scratch

PAGE 34

PHOTOSHOP

AMAZING ARTWORK
Create incredible images from scratch using Photoshop's built-in tools 34

PHOTOSHOP 3D EFFECTS
Achieve impressive 3D results using Layer Styles in Photoshop 42

DREAMWEAVER

DESIGN TIME STYLE SHEETS
Give your Web pages a new look the hassle-free way by switching style sheets on the fly 48

CREATE OPTIONAL CONTENT
Use Dreamweaver's sophisticated template facilities to create content that can easily be switched on or off 52

CLEAN UP DIRTY CODE
Discover how Dreamweaver can help you tidy up even the dirtiest Word HTML 58

FLASH

INTERACTIVE PRELOADER
Give your visitors something to do while they wait for your site to load, with our cool interactive preloader .. 62

STUNNING VECTOR ART: PART ONE
Robert Firebaugh shows you how to create ultra-realistic 3D objects using Flash's vector tools 66

ACCESSIBILITY

ACCESSIBILITY BASICS
We reveal the steps every Web designer should take to make their site fully accessible 70

BUILD AN ACCESSIBLE SITE
Fashion an accessible site from scratch, thanks to the fantastic features in Dreamweaver 74

DEVELOPER

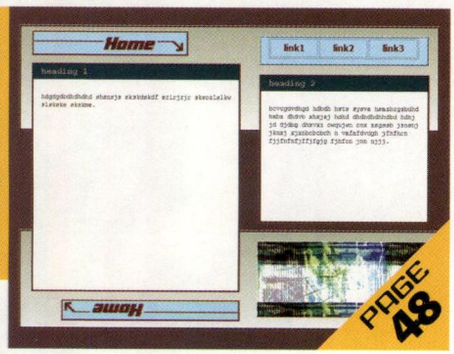
SET UP AN ONLINE ORGANISER: PART SIX
We show you the techniques that will enable you to provide your visitors with an online organiser 80

CREATE A BLOG IN PHP: PART SIX
Learn how you can upload your thoughts to the world every day with this essential PHP primer 82

BUILD AN ONLINE HELPDESK: PART SIX
Got a site where people need to ask for help? Make it more professional by creating a waiting system 84

CREATE A WEB PORTAL: PART NINE
Build a site that visitors can customise as much as they like, and ensure they come back time and time again 86

DREAMWEAVER



PAGE 48

FLASH

PAGE 66

ACCESSIBILITY

PAGE 74

TUTORIAL: PHOTOSHOP
CONSTRUCT CREATIVE COLLAGES IN PHOTOSHOP

YOUR EXPERT: TODD YARD

Originally from Phoenix, Arizona, Todd first started using Flash when he moved to New York City (via an acting course in London). He now works for Daedalus Media (**www.daedalusmedia.com**) in New York, and is also lead Flash programmer at ego 7 (**www.ego7.com**). Todd is a regular contributor to the *Friends of Ed* series of books, and specialises in Flash, Illustrator and Photoshop.

CONSTRUCT CREATIVE COLLAGES IN PHOTOSHOP

Use the diverse features in Photoshop CS to creatively experiment and produce original Web art and wallpaper

THE BRIEF

TUTORIAL OBJECTIVE
Create a unique piece of Web art with Photoshop CS

SKILL LEVEL

TIME REQUIRED
1.5 hours

ON THE DISC
Photoshop/ Tutorial files:
finished.tif
man.psd
train_depot.png
water_tower.png
workflow.psd

There's no better playground for letting your creativity run wild than a blank canvas in Photoshop. With all the tools that the app provides for the user, there's very little that can't be achieved within the interface. From custom brushes and vector layers to unique filters and layer effects, to the ability to mask and blend digital imagery photography, Photoshop has a wide, powerful and unmatched toolset for the creative user.

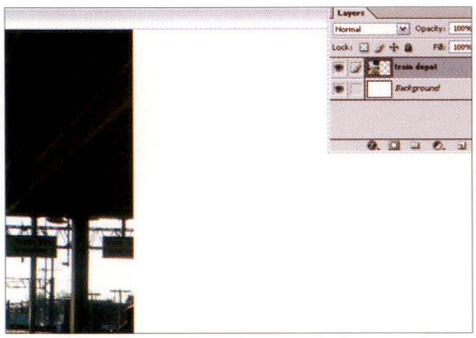
The trick, of course, is knowing your way around within the app well enough to be unhindered by the hidden menu items, multitudes of sliders and options, and general sense of overwhelming complexity that the program can often generate.

In this tutorial we'll step through the creation of on original piece utilising many of the features in Photoshop CS, including shape layers, custom brushes, blending modes and the creative use of filters, masks and layer effects.

Techniques discussed here will be applicable when generating your own imagery or compositing your own images, granting you a bit more confidence and freedom as you work within the application.

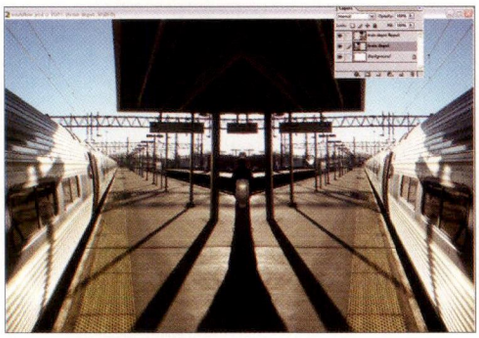
Remember that one of the best aspects of Photoshop is the amazing ability to experiment and discover new ways to achieve fantastic results! ■

TUTORIAL: PHOTOSHOP
CONSTRUCT CREATIVE COLLAGES IN PHOTOSHOP



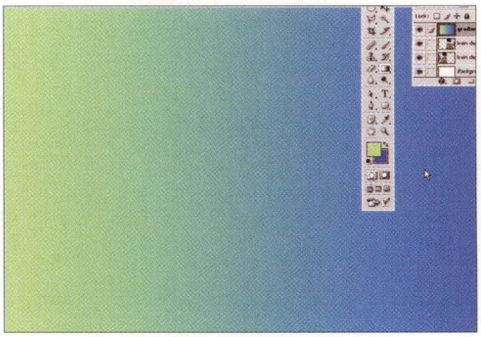
1 CATCHING A TRAIN

Create a new 1200x800 RGB image with a white background. Save it as 'workflow.psd'. Open the image train_depot.png and drag and drop the .png image into the workflow image, positioning it to the left and scaling it up to fill half the canvas. Rename the new layer 'train depot'.



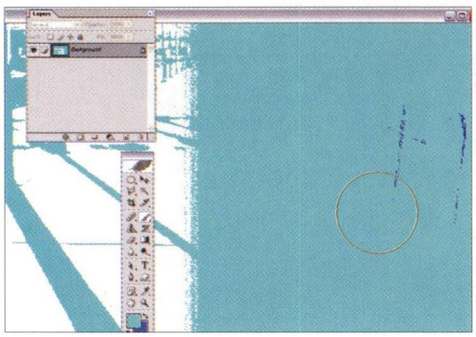
2 MIRROR, MIRROR

Create a copy of the Train Depot layer by dragging it to the New Layer icon in the Layers palette. Flip the copy by selecting Edit>Transform>Flip Horizontal, then use the Move tool to move the flipped image to the right of the canvas.



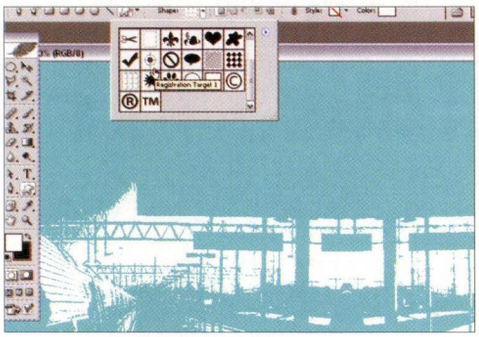
3 MAKING THE GRADIENT

Create a new layer; name it 'Gradient'. Select #D6F5A6 as a foreground colour and #0083FF as a background colour, then select the Gradient tool from the toolbox. Make sure Linear Gradient is selected with the foreground to background gradient, then drag the tool from left to right across the canvas.



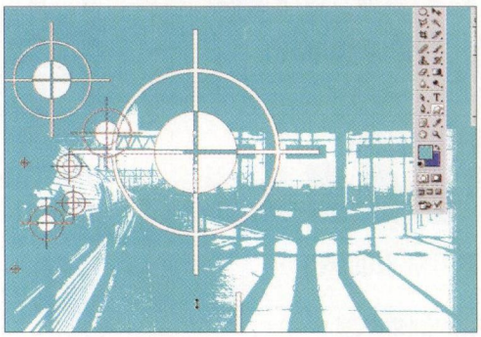
6 DEEP BLUE, SEE?

Flatten the image as it stands (create a backup first), then select a standard brush. Sample the turquoise colour using the Eyedropper, then paint over the deep blue specks on the right of the image, cleaning things up and leaving just the turquoise and white.



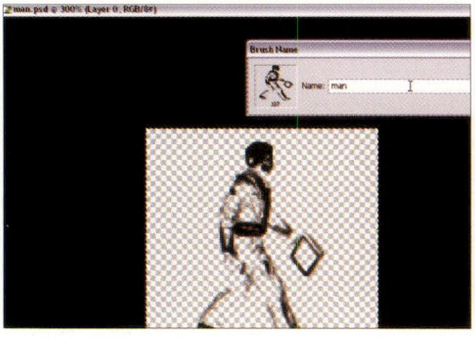
7 THE SHAPE OF THINGS

Select the Custom Shape tool (you can select it in the toolbox or select any of the other shape tools then select the Custom Shape from the Properties bar). For the Shape, select Registration Target 1 from the default shapes. Make sure you have white as the foreground colour.



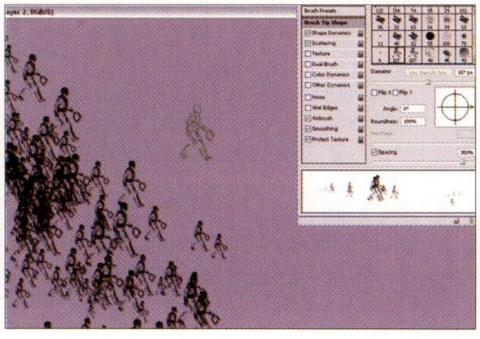
8 RIGHT ON TARGET

Draw a large target shape on the image. A new Shape layer will be created. To add more shapes to the same layer, select the Add to Shape Layer option in the Properties bar. Continue drawing a number of random-sized and positioned targets on the same layer.



11 THE MAKING OF A MAN

Once more, save a copy of the file, then flatten the image. Create a new layer on top and fill it with lavender (#ABA2BD). Open the file man.psd and Select All. Use Edit> Define Brush Preset and name the new brush 'Man'. Close man.psd and return to the Workflow image.

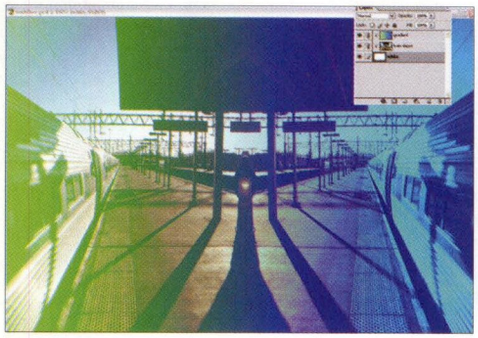


12 BRUSH 'EM OFF

Create a new layer named 'Men', then select the brush from your toolbox. Find the Man brush you just created in the Brushes palette. Give the brush size jitter and scattering, and set its spacing to '350%'. With black as the foreground colour, paint a diagonal cluster on the left.

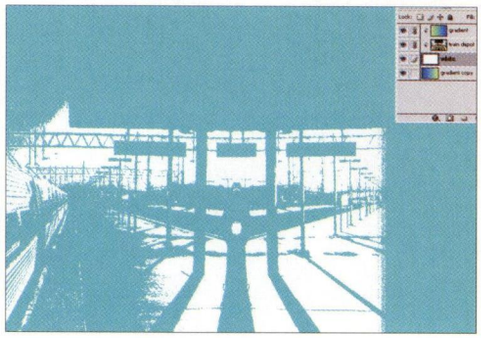
13 CLOUDY DAY

Select a dull yellow for the foreground colour (#E3D8AC) and a slightly darker purple for the background (#AF8DB9). Lock the transparency of the Men layer by clicking the Checkerboard icon in the Layers palette. Run Filter>Render>Clouds to fill the pixels of the layer.



4 CLIP IT, CLIP IT GOOD

Set the Gradient layer's blending mode to 'Pin Light' and then merge the two Train Depot layers. Double-click the white background layer and rename it 'White'. Now link all three layers and create a clipping mask with Layer>Create Clipping Mask From Linked.

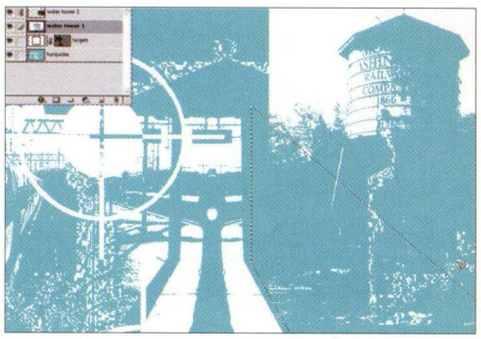


5 A BIT OF BITMAP

Duplicate the Gradient layer and drag it to the bottom of the layer stack, below the White layer. Flip the new layer using Edit>Transform>Flip Horizontal. Select the White layer and change its blending mode to 'Hard Mix', creating an interesting bitmap texture of turquoise and white.

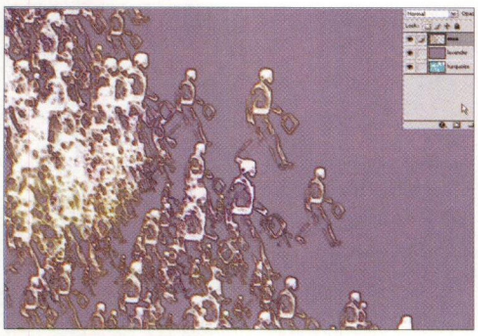
9 WATER TOWER

Open water_tower.png and drag the image into the Workflow image. Position it in the upper right corner and set its blending mode to 'Vivid Light'. Duplicate the Water Tower layer and place it under the original. Scale the copy up so that the top half fills the image.



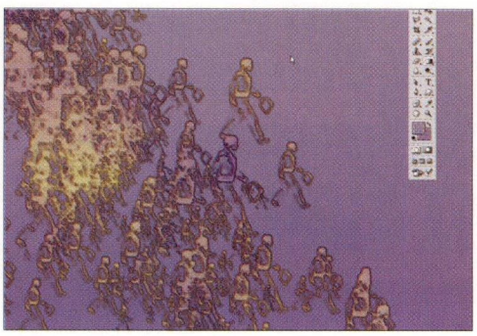
10 A NEW LEVEL

Select the smaller water tower, then open the Image>Adjustments>Levels dialog. Drag the white input level to 220. Click OK. Next, select the Turquoise layer and use the Lasso tool to select any white areas on the right that intersect the smaller water tower. Fill with turquoise.



14 FINDING EDGES

Duplicate the Men layer and place the copy at the top of the stack. Use Edit>Free Transform to scale the layer up, but covering the same area as the smaller men. Merge the two layers. Run Filter>Stylize>Find Edges on the merged men.



15 LAVENDER BLUE

Immediately select Edit>Fade Find Edges and set the blending mode to 'Multiply'. Now select the Lavender layer and set the foreground colour to #ABA2BD and the background to #AF8DB9. Use the Gradient tool to drag a vertical linear gradient across the entire layer.

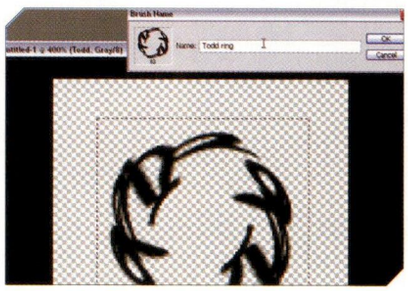
TECHNIQUE

CREATING CUSTOM BRUSHES

The Paint Engine in Photoshop has really come a long way in the last couple of versions, allowing for far more natural media effects, as well as the ability to create unique brushes for your images. Creating your own brushes is simple once you have learned the technique.

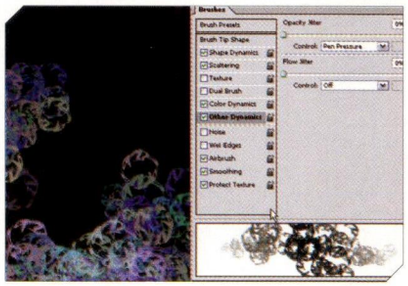
1 SETTING UP THE PROFILE

Create a new square greyscale image with a transparent background. Try 128x128 pixels. In this image, paint with any of the brushes, draw with the vector tools, or import and manipulate images. Try typing some text with the Text tool and distorting it with filters. This will be your Brush Profile.



2 THE NAME IN THE MARQUEE

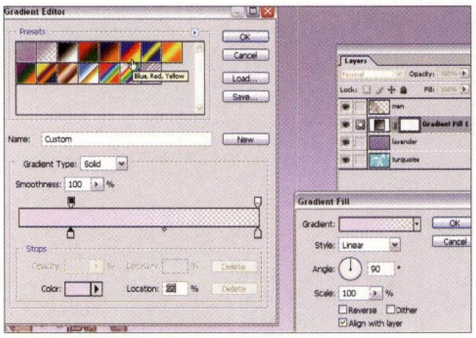
Select the whole image if you drew to the edges, or use the Rectangular Marquee tool while holding Shift to draw a square marquee around your image. Open Edit>Define Brush Preset and name your new brush. Click OK, and your brush will now appear in the Brushes palette.



3 PAINT AWAY

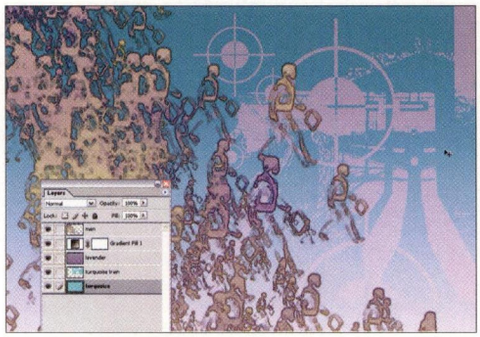
Create a new, larger document with a solid colour background. Select the Brush tool. In the Brushes palette, select your new preset. You can alter the Brush options to affect almost every aspect of your brush, then save out new presets with these altered settings. Experiment and paint away!

CONSTRUCT CREATIVE COLLAGES IN PHOTOSHOP



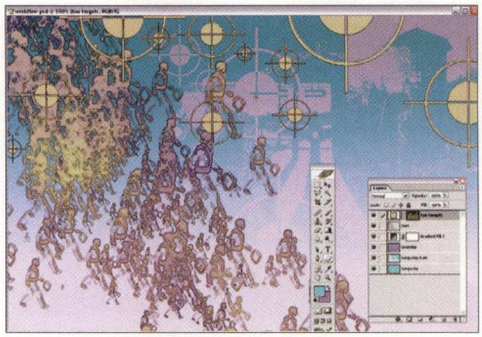
16 MAKING THE ADJUSTMENT

Create a new Gradient Adjustment layer in the Layers palette over the Lavender layer. Create a new gradient that goes from #EADFFF completely opaque to #EADFFF completely transparent, dragging the left-hand colour and transparency wells in slightly. Set the Gradient Type to Linear, 90 degrees.



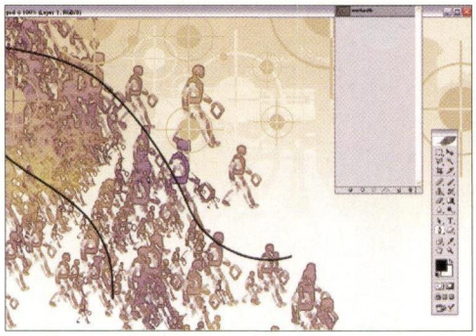
17 REVEALING THE TURQUOISE

Set the Lavender layer's blending mode to 'Darken' to reveal the Turquoise layer once more, then select and transform the Turquoise layer, scaling it down to fit in the upper right corner. Create a new layer at the bottom of the stack and fill it with turquoise.



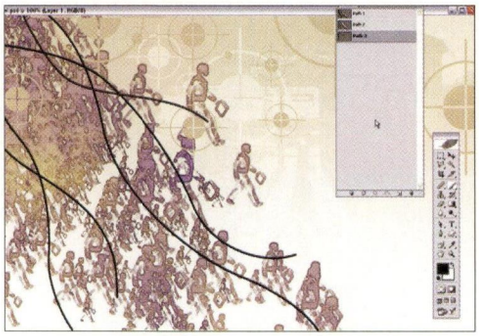
18 MORE TARGET PRACTICE

Sample a tan colour from the image, then select the Custom Shape tool with the same target shape selected. Draw a number of targets on a new Shape layer at the top of the layer stack. (First select Add to Shape Layer on the Properties bar, or each target will be placed on a separate layer.)



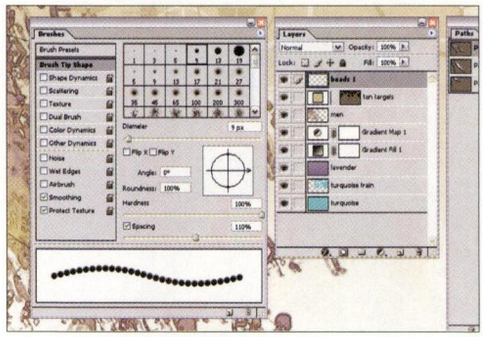
20 ON THE RIGHT PATH

Select the Pen tool from the toolbox. Make sure the Paths option is selected in the Properties bar. Now any shape you draw will appear as a path in the Paths palette. Draw two paths, stretching down like tendrils from the upper left of the image.



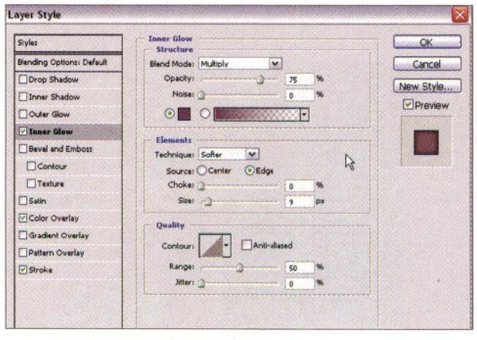
21 OUR PATHS WILL CROSS AGAIN

Double-click the workpath name in the Paths palette and change it to 'Path 1'. This is necessary, or the path will disappear when you draw another. Once the name is changed, draw two more sets of two-path tendrils, renaming them 'Path 2' and 'Path 3'.



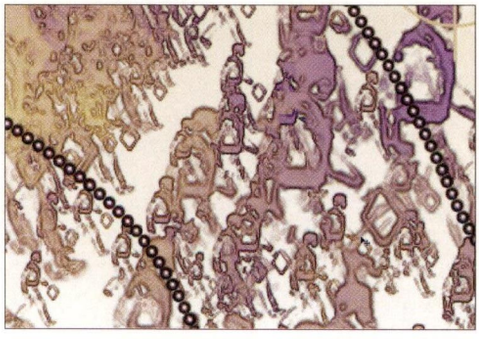
22 STRING OF PEARLS

Select the Brush tool, then select a 9-point brush preset in the Brushes palette. Change the spacing to '110%' so that the dots are fairly even spaced in the preview, looking like a string of pearls. Now create a new layer at the top of the Layers stack and name it 'Beads 1'.



24 LAYERING THE EFFECTS

Deselect the path by clicking on the blank grey area in the Paths palette. Double-click the Beads 1 layer to open the Layer Effects dialog. Give the layer a colour overlay of #936B80. Create an Inner Glow of #7D5076 set to Multiply with a size of 9px. Finally, add an Inside Stroke of 1px black.

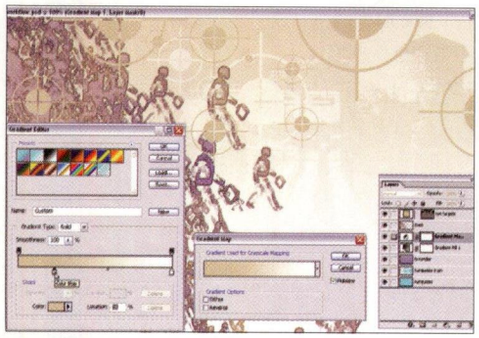


25 THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE TUTORIAL

To add to the 3D illusion, create a new layer at the top of the stack named 'Beads 1 Highlight'. Right/Control-click the Beads 1 layer to load the pixels as a selection, then choose Select>Modify>Contract by 3px. Fill the selection with white.

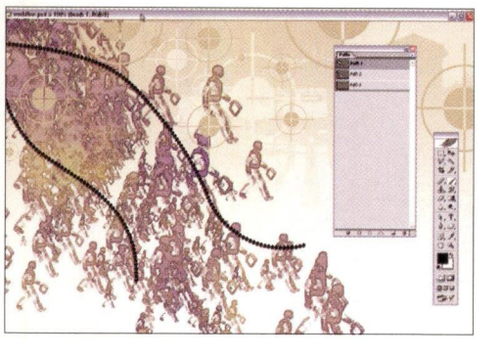
26 GAME, SET AND MATCH

With the Move tool selected, use the arrow keys to move the highlights up and to the left slightly. Set Highlight blending mode to 'Screen' at '50%' opacity. Link these two layers, because they should always travel together, and place them in a new layer set named 'Beads'.



19 MAPPING IT OUT

It's now time to start tying the image together. Create a new Gradient Map adjustment layer above the Gradient adjustment layer created in step 16. Make the gradient tan (#DCCDAE) to white. This will map all dark colours to the tan, all light colours to white, with variance based on brightness.



23 STROKE OF LUCK

Select the Beads 1 layer, and also select Path 1 from the Paths palette. Make sure you have black set as the foreground colour. At the bottom of the Paths palette, select Stroke Path With Brush. You should see a string of black dots following your path.

IN DETAIL: VECTOR SHAPES IN PHOTOSHOP

Manipulate vector objects in Photoshop to break out of the bitmap mould

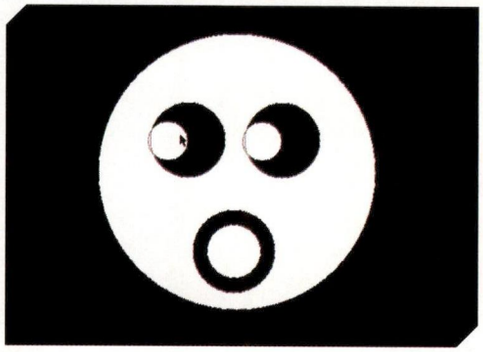
Although primarily a bitmap-editing program, Photoshop offers a wide range of vector tools for the designer as well. The Bezier Pen tool is the oldest and most versatile of the toolset, but it has recently been joined by vector shape layers, which offer a whole new way of working with vectors in Photoshop.

When drawing with the Pen or a Shape (whether a standard shape like the ellipse and rectangle, or another custom shape), you can create shape layers or paths in the Paths palette. A third option, to fill with colour, actually creates a bitmap image. For the first two options, you can manipulate any of the shapes drawn by using the Pen and path manipulation tools, such as the Direct Selection tool or the Convert Point tool.

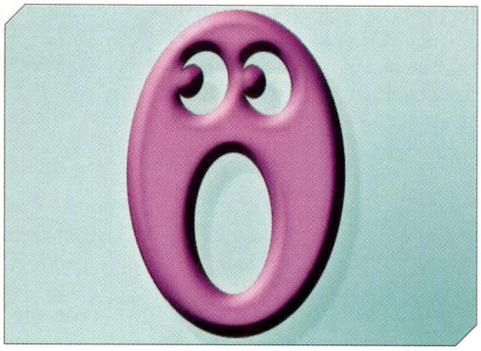
Users of Illustrator will immediately take to these tools, as they are very similar in functionality to Photoshop's sister application. An additional option with shape layers is the ability to use Boolean operations on the Properties bar to add, subtract or intersect shapes on a shape layer. This enables the designer to create complex vector shapes which can be given solid fills, special layer styles, or used to mask other layers, both bitmap and vector.

At any time, these layers can be rasterized, at which point any of the bitmap's filters can be used, although the vector options are lost to the layer. Obviously, one of the benefits of maintaining the layer as a vector is the ability to edit the points of the vector whenever required, and the ability to scale the layer up without losing resolutions. This can be very useful with logos with vector elements.

These vector paths or layers can be saved as custom shape presets at any time for later use or manipulation. ■



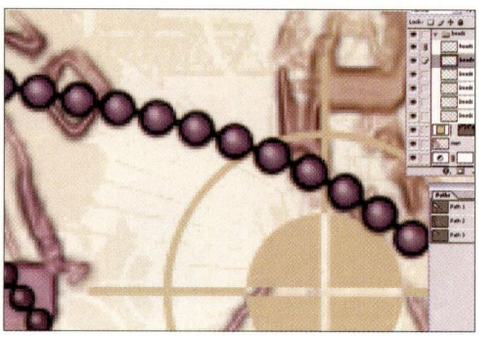
■ Photoshop allows you to create vector images, thanks to a few simple yet incredibly effective options within the toolbar



■ The bonus of creating vector-style images in Photoshop is that you can very quickly apply Layer Styles, creating cool effects very easily

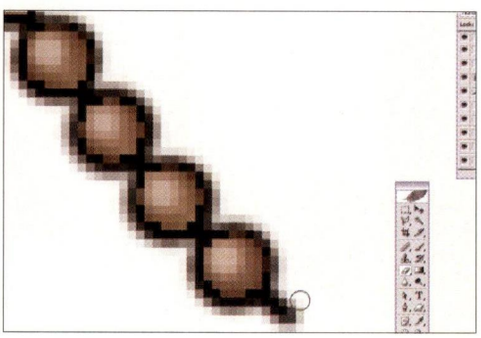
27 BEAD REPETITION

Repeat the process of the last five steps, but with the other two paths created in step 21. Alter the brush sizes and spacing slightly for each. You can copy the layer styles from one layer to another, but alter the colours and inner glow options slightly for each.



28 CONNECTING THE DOTS

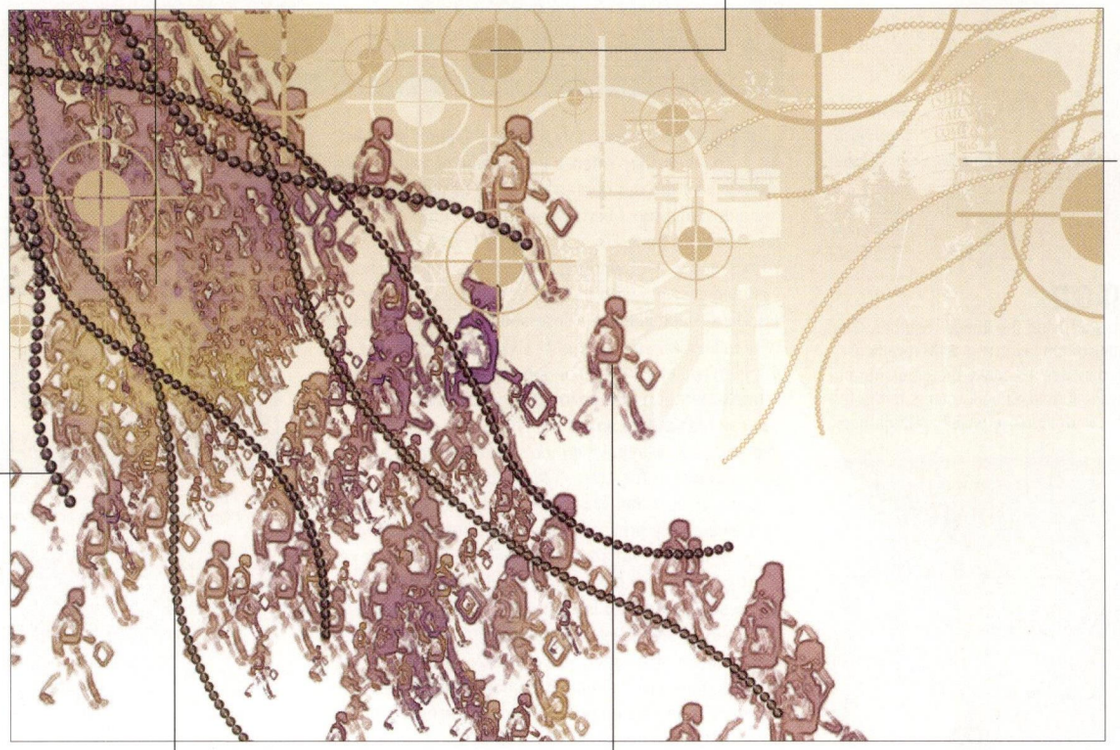
There might be some spaces between the individual beads. To take care of this, select a 3-pixel default brush with 25% spacing. Select each of the paths in turn in the Paths palette and the associated layer. Stroke the path as before, but with the new brush. Your beads should connect.

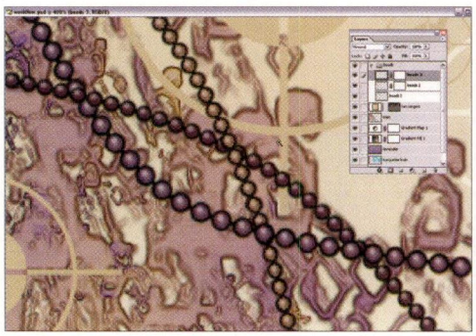


29 STRINGING IT OUT

A little bit of the string from the last step could be sticking out of the ends of the bead paths. Use the Eraser to get rid of these bits. Save out a copy of the file, then merge each bead highlight layer with its associated bead layer, leaving three layers.

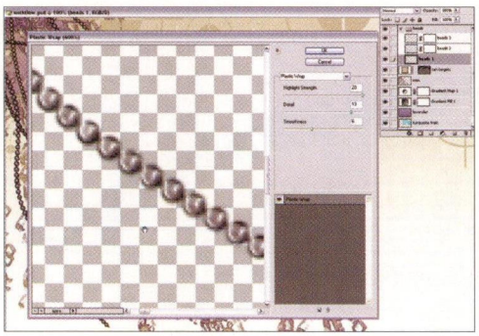
TUTORIAL: PHOTOSHOP
CONSTRUCT CREATIVE COLLAGES IN PHOTOSHOP





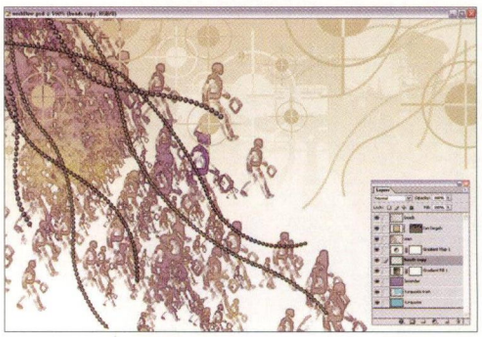
30 PAINT IT BLACK

Create layer masks on the top two bead layers. At certain points where the beads overlap, paint a black mask on the top two layers to reveal the beads on the layers below. This is a subtle effect that will add that extra bit of depth, because the beads will seem to intertwine.



31 ARTISTIC PLASTIC WRAP

For that last bit of 3D effect, select one of the bead layers and run Filter>Artistic>Plastic Wrap. Set the Highlight strength to 20, the Detail to 13 and the Smoothness to 6. Click OK, then rerun the filter on the other two bead layers (Control & F).



32 FINISHING TOUCH

Merge the three bead layers and create a duplicate of the layer. Drag the layer below the Gradient Map adjustment layer in the layer stack, then use Edit>Free Transform to scale down, rotate and move the beads to the top right corner of the image.

exclusive reader offer

FREE BONUS GUIDES & SAVE UP TO 56%

WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE TO *WEB DESIGNER* TODAY!

Worth £18!

YOUR SUBSCRIBER BENEFITS:

- ✔ Substantial savings
- ✔ Free home delivery
- ✔ Free CD packed with the best programs and resources every issue
- ✔ Money-back guarantee

If you are ever unhappy with our magazine or services, we will immediately refund you for all remaining issues

YOUR 3 BONUS GUIDES

PRACTICAL WEB PROJECTS

- ✔ State-of-the art Web design guides
- ✔ Covers leading creative software such as Photoshop and Flash
- ✔ Helps you build your own stylish Web site, guaranteed
- ✔ Each issue comes with a free CD packed with useful Web design resources

To subscribe or renew your subscription, simply call 0870 444 8682 or complete the voucher below.
Offer valid in the UK only. Call 44870 444 8682 for international prices.
THIS OFFER EXPIRES WITHOUT NOTICE

FREE BONUS GUIDES & DISCOUNT SUBSCRIPTION VOUCHER

Yes, RUSH me my FREE Bonus Guides and start my subscription to Web Designer as indicated below:

☐ Best Deal – Two years (26 issues) for just £68.99 – SAVE 56% ☐ One year (13 issues) for £37.99 – SAVE 51%

☐ Spread my payments with Direct Debit (£8.79 every three issues)

MY DETAILS

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

.....

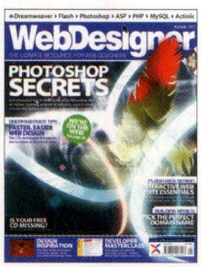
Post Code: .....Telephone:.....

Email:.....

☐ New Subscription.....☐ Renewal.....

Please tick the box if you DO NOT wish your details to be used for internal promotions by Highbury Entertainment ☐

Please tick the box if you DO NOT wish to receive information about products and services from other carefully selected companies ☐



MEDIA CODE: WD0498

WebDesigner

Please post the voucher to:
HIGHBURY ENTERTAINMENT LTD
FREEPOST NATW1809
SOMERTON
TA11 6ZA

YOUR PAYMENT DETAILS

☐ Cheque enclosed (made payable to Highbury Entertainment Ltd)

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Switch ☐ Delta

Card number: .....

Expiry Date:.....Issue No:.....

Signed:.....

Date:.....

HIGHBURY ENTERTAINMENT

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

DIRECT Debit

Please fill in the form and send it to: Highbury Entertainment Limited, FREEPOST NATW1809, (Customer Interface), SOMERTON, TA11 6ZA

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

To: The Manager Bank/Building Society

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of account holder(s)

Branch sort code

Bank/Building Society account number

Originator's Identification Number

8 5 1 4 1 2

Reference Number

Instructions to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay Highbury Entertainment Limited Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Highbury Entertainment Limited and, if so, details will be passed on electronically to my Bank/Building Society

Signature(s)

Date

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account

A6 instruction form

EXPRESS ORDERS: PHONE 0870 444 8682 OR FAX 01458 271146

TUTORIAL: PHOTOSHOP
CREATE A COOL 3D LOGO WITH PHOTOSHOP CS

YOUR EXPERT: COLIN SMITH

Colin has won various awards including three Guru awards at Macworld. He has authored eight books including *How To Do Everything With Photoshop CS*. Colin has also founded one of the largest Photoshop communities on the Web, Photoshop Café (**www.photoshopcafe.com**). He is also a regular columnist for Photoshop User magazine and the official NAPP members' site.

THE BRIEF

TUTORIAL OBJECTIVE
Assemble a logo and add dimension using different techniques

SKILL LEVEL

TIME REQUIRED
30 minutes

ON THE DISC

Photoshop/ Tutorial files:
final.psd
IMG_0278.JPG
photoshop fun.eps
shapes.eps

CREATE A COOL 3D LOGO USING PHOTOSHOP CS

Create a logo that jumps off the page at you using Layers Styles plus a clever little trick or two

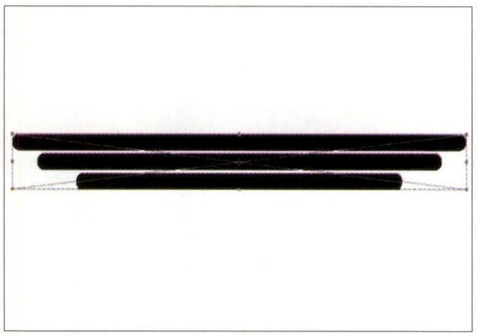
A long time ago, it was proven that the world is not flat. After this tutorial you won't be stuck with flat logos either.

When you create a Web page, you're not confined to the limitations of print, using one or two colours on a logo. So why not take advantage of the flexibility of the Web and add some punch?

In this tutorial you will learn how to add amazing realism and depth to your artwork. We'll be using a few different techniques to create a very realistic shiny glass orb. We will then explore Photoshop's Layer Styles and add some dimension to flat logo elements.

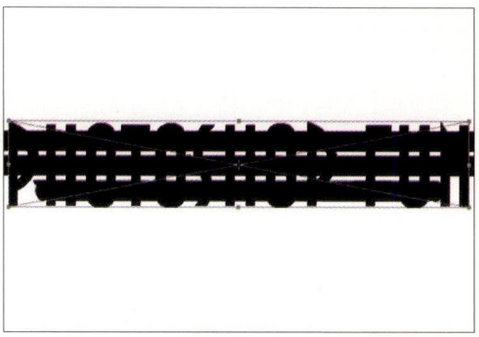
After we assemble this project, you will have the necessary skills to make people sit up and take notice of your logos. You'll also learn a few shortcuts and some great ways of working with styles that will shave time off your workflow, so you can spend less time clicking and more time creating! ■

CREATE A COOL 3D LOGO WITH PHOTOSHOP CS



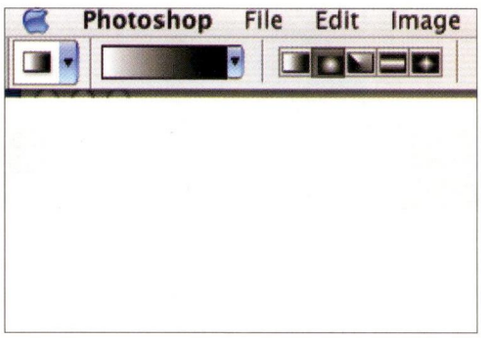
1 PLACE THE SHAPE ON THE PAGE

Create a new document. We have chosen 800x800 pixels in RGB mode and a white background. If you use a different size, you'll need to adjust the settings to suit. Choose File>Place. Locate shapes.eps from the CD and stretch the size to fit the page. It will automatically create a new layer.



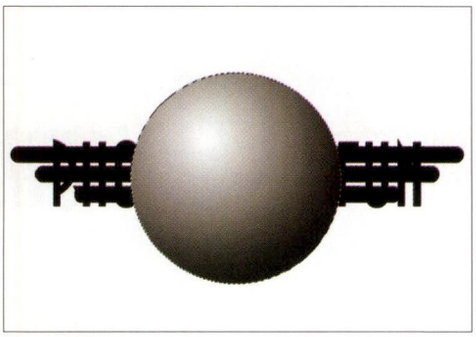
2 PLACING THE TEXT

Choose File>Place and locate photoshop fun.eps from the CD. Resize to match the screenshot. Hold down the Shift key while resizing to maintain the correct proportions. The font used is 'Anna', in case you prefer to create the text in Photoshop yourself.



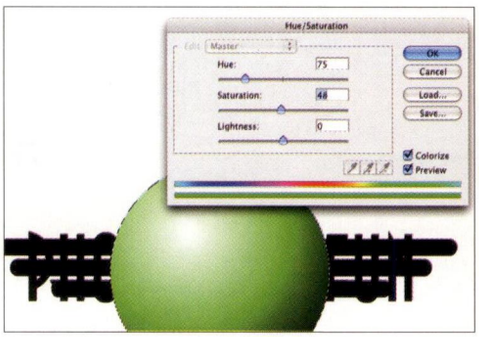
3 THE GRADIENT OPTIONS

We will now make the orb. Using the Elliptical Marquee tool (hold down the Shift key to constrain proportions), make a circular selection over the centre of the logo. Choose the Gradient tool and reset the colour swatches by pressing the D key. Choose Radial and reverse as shown.



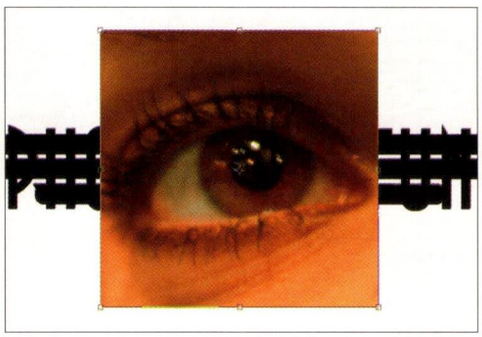
4 CREATING THE SPHERE

With the Gradient tool selected, create a new layer and name it 'Orb'. Place the mouse curser in the top left of the selection. Place it about a third of the way down and to the left. Click and drag the mouse to the lower right and release to shade the orb.



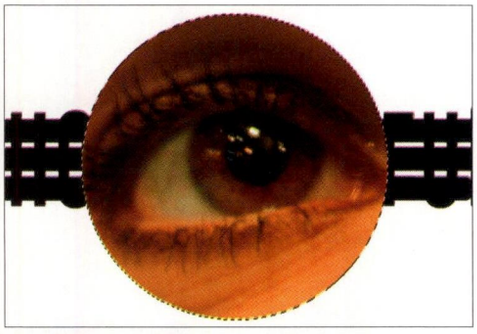
5 ADDING SOME COLOUR

Let's add some colour to the orb. Choose Image> Adjustments>Hue Saturation. Click the Colorize option. Slide the hue slider to find your desired colour. Saturation will add or subtract the amount of colour. Slide the saturation to the right to increase the colour. Deselect.



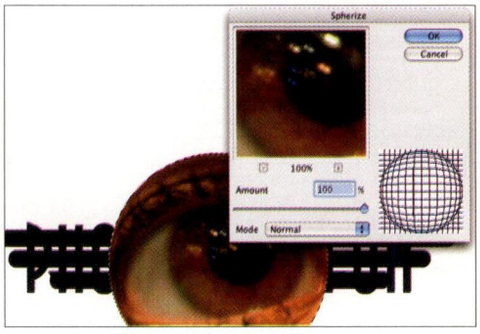
6 PLACING AND RESIZING THE EYE

We will now add reflections to create a glassy look for the orb. Open IMG_0278.jpg from the CD and drag the image into your document. Press Control & T for the Free Transform tool. Holding down the Shift key, drag any corner towards the centre to shrink the image of the eye.



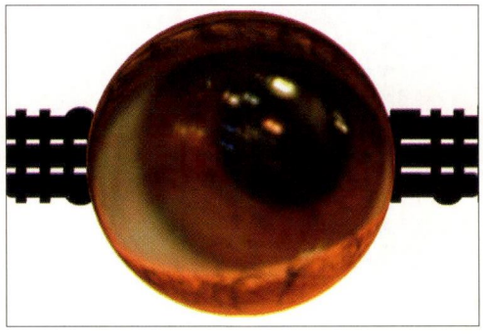
7 TRIMMING TO A CIRCLE

We will trim the image to fit the orb. With the Eye layer active, choose Select>Reselect. The previous selection will turn on, revealing the circle. Press Control & Shift & I to invert the selection. Press the Delete key to trim away the excess.



8 SPHERIZING THE IMAGE

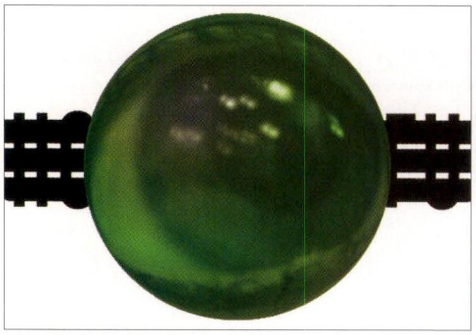
We will now make the image wrap around in the circle, so it appears to follow the curves and look more like a sphere than a flat circle. Choose Filter>Distort>Spherize. Crank the amount all the way up to 100 and press OK to apply the effect.



9 SPHERIZED EYE

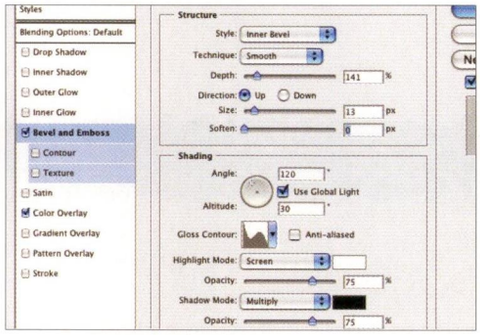
The effect should be starting to look like something by now. Usually once is not enough for a true orb effect, and the filter will need to be repeated one more time. Rather than go through all the menus, press Control & F (Command & F on a Mac) to reapply the previous filter.

TUTORIAL: PHOTOSHOP
CREATE A COOL 3D LOGO WITH PHOTOSHOP CS



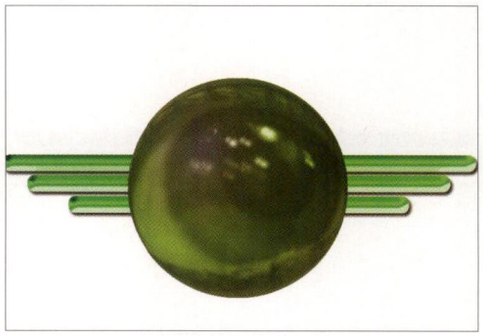
10 BLENDING THE EFFECT

Let's make the image blend into the orb nicely. Change the blending mode by clicking the menu at the top of the Layers palette and choosing Luminosity. This will apply the detail without the colour. Lower the opacity to around 63% to blend the eye with the Orb layer.



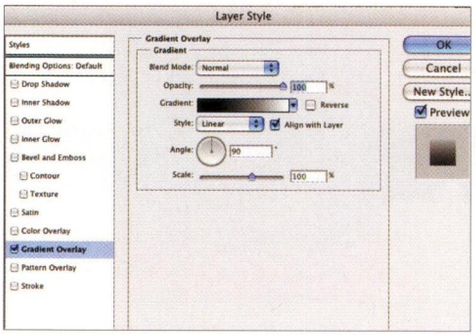
11 STYLING THE SHAPE

Let's add some depth to the shape. Select the Shape layer and click on the 'F' at the bottom of the Layers palette to evoke the styles. Choose Color Overlay. Choose a bright green colour and set the opacity to 75. Choose Bevel and add the settings as shown.



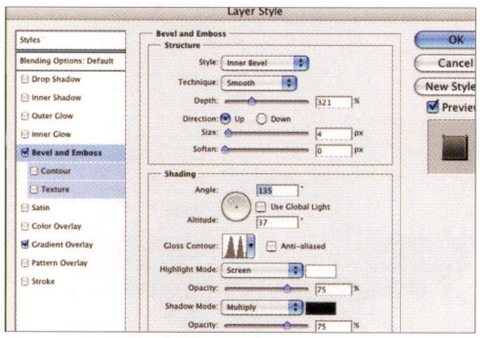
12 THE STYLED SHAPE

Click on Drop Shadow and choose a greenish colour for a realistic-looking glass shadow. Drop the opacity to 30. Finally, click on the top option of the Layer Styles palette labelled Blending Options. Lower the fill opacity to 0. The whole shape will now be semi-transparent. Click OK.



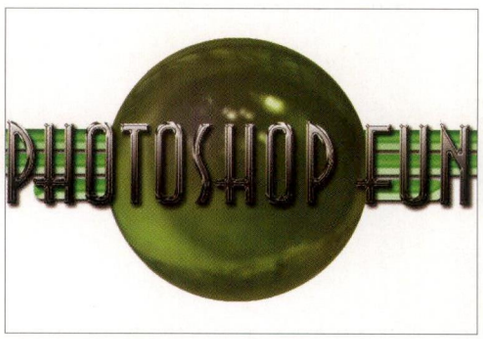
13 GRADIENT OVERLAY

We will now style the text in a chrome bevel. This will give our Art Deco type a Fifties diner feel. Choose the Text layer and click the Add a Layer Style button. Choose Gradient Overlay. Select the black-to-white Linear option and make the angle 90 degrees.



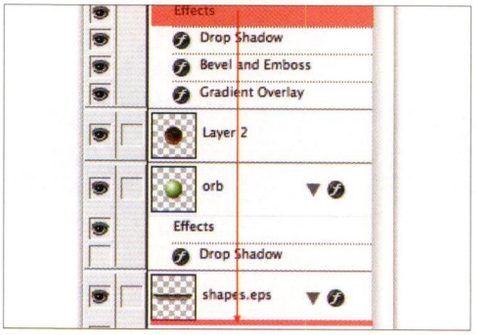
14 CHROME BEVEL

Click on Bevel and Emboss. Enter the settings shown to create a nice chrome effect. The secret to good chrome is in the Gloss Contour – change it to the options shown here. To brighten it up, unclick Use Global Light. Click and drag the crosshairs for a brighter angle.



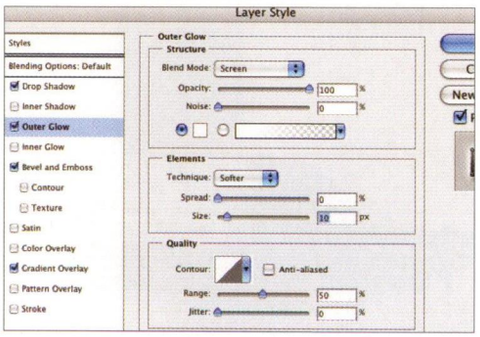
15 THE CHROME TEXT

The final thing to do to the chrome text is to add a drop shadow to make it stand out from the background. Click OK to apply the layer style. You can now see the effect the style has on the text. Let's now change the three-lined shape to match the text.



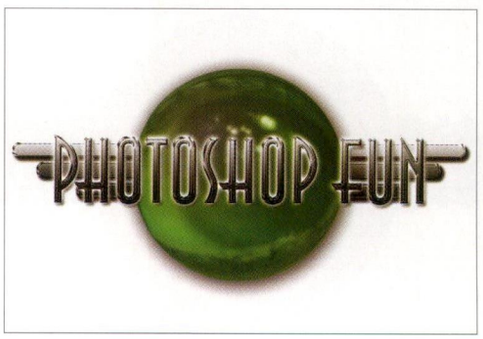
16 DUPLICATING THE STYLE

There is an easy way to copy the layer style to another layer. Click on the word 'Effects' on the Text layer and drag the mouse just under the Shapes layer until you see a line appear. Release the mouse to duplicate the effect to the Target layer.



17 ADDING A GLOW

The chrome effect looks nice, but it's a bit tough to read the text now. What we need is something to separate it from the shape. Double-click any of the thee styles in the Text layer to launch its layer style. Choose Outer Glow. Set the opacity to 100 and the size to 10.



18 FINAL EFFECT

Click OK to apply the layer style. We now have the final logo. We have a glass orb with a cool retro-looking chrome design, and we added a soft drop shadow under the orb for a little extra impact.

Ace Server

As your business becomes affected by the constraints of shared hosting, a dedicated server may appear an attractive option. However, unless you have the resources to operate an Internet facing server along with the ability to deal with a crisis, expensive downtime and damaging security breaches are inevitable.

Our dedicated servers come with skilled technicians to look after your machine, apply security updates and offer help when you need it. Supplied with a suite of software, including our exclusive web based control panel, you are free to run your business whilst we take care of the technical side of things.

Donhost really has Served an Ace with the Ultimate Dedicated Server!

Website Features
Host unlimited sites with full PHP, Perl CGI, my SQL, FrontPage, SHTML and SSL support. You have full access to all configuration options on a server and per site level.

Email Features
Create unlimited mailboxes, auto-responsers and forwarders all with up to date virus protection. POP3, IMAP, SMTP and web based access to your mail.

Full Administrative Access
Install any software you desire and configure it as you want. You have root level shell access as well as our easy to use web based control panel to configure your server.

Management and Support
We will monitor the performance of your server, apply security patches and install and configure software for you. Our devoted team is available 24 hours a day to solve your problems and tend to your needs by telephone and email.

Data Backup
Hardware based RAID disk mirroring and daily tape backups provide total protection for your data.

Network and Data Centre
Our network and data centre is owned and operated by us, giving faultless performance and availability. For security, redundant Cisco firewalls are included as standard.

Hardware
- 2.8 Ghz Pentium 4 processor
- 1GB memory
- Dual 60GB hard disk drives
- Hardware RAID controller
- 40GB monthly data transfer

Check our website or call for latest hardware specifications

100% Uptime Guaranteed

Total Service Guarantee - or your money back!
- 100% uptime or your money back
- Instant reboots via automated power outlets
- 5 minute engineer response time
- All security updates installed on your behalf
- Instant replacement server in the event of hardware failure
- 24 hour dedicated support

NetBlox

Additional data transfer £2.50 per GB
Increase or decrease your server's data transfer quota as your bandwidth requirements change.

Sign Up Now!
InstantActivation

Sign up NOW and enjoy 7 days free service. Simply enter the special code **WDF4** at:
www.donhost.co.uk
or call 0845 226 5566

Login and start using your server straight away whether you sign up online or over the telephone.

From £49.99 per month

NO MINIMUM CONTRACT, NO SET-UP FEE, TERMINATE AT ANY TIME.

donhost.
power in **your** hands

Call: 0845 226 5566
Or visit: www.donhost.co.uk

Shared hosting packages from £8.99/month
Reseller hosting packages from £39.99/month

FreeBSD
THE POWER TO SERVE

Ripe NCC Member

A member of Nominet:uk

Cisco Powered Network

unique customers

At Hostway we understand that every hosting customer has unique demands. But there are some things you all agree on.

You want rock solid systems reliability so you can be confident your website is up first time, every time someone visits. You want the highest quality support and customer service so whenever you need help or have a problem, there's someone with a solution on the other end of the line when you call. You also want innovative, easy-to-use administration tools because your time is better spent creatively, or on managing your business. That's not all though. You want support for the latest technologies, and the flexibility that will allow you to build your website and sustain it as it grows, with minimum hassle.

And you want all of this at a competitive price.

Too much to ask for? No, we don't think so either.

Hostway are proud partners with:

Microsoft® · Cisco Systems · hp HEWLETT PACKARD · intel inside pentium

Domain Name Registration less than £4.00 pa

Your own .co.uk, .me.uk, .org.uk - **£7.95 for 2 years**
Your own .com, .net, .org, .info, .biz - **£8.95 for 1 year**

Park&Mail from £29.95 pa

Our Email-only plans feature a full POP3/SMTP service, business holding page, domain forwarding and web-based access wherever you are.

Windows® or Linux Shared Hosting

Silver Plan from £7.95 pcm
150Mb web space, 3Gb Traffic, 25 POP3 email

Gold Plan from £13.95 pcm
300Mb web space, 5Gb Traffic, 50 POP3 email

ColdFusion MX Gold Plan £19.95 pcm
300Mb web space, 5Gb Traffic, 50 POP3 email

Ecommerce Gold Plan from £18.95 pcm
300Mb web space, 5Gb Traffic, Merchant Manager, VSSL

Hostway Dedicated Servers from £149 pcm

Managed or Unmanaged, our cost-effective range of Windows® and Linux dedicated servers are built to satisfy the most exacting of demands. Exceptional performance, scalability, and value for money, using premium Intel hardware, from Celeron to Xeon.
Visit www.hostway.co.uk/dedicated for further details.

unique hosting

Powerful, time-saving tools you won't find anywhere else:

SiteControl

Hostway SiteControl
The heart of your Hostway account. The latest evolution of our Control Panel takes even more of the strain out of managing your hosting environment. Add/delete additional features and accounts, promote your website, manage Domain Names, use web based FTP or check statistics & usage. For more information, please visit
www.hostway.co.uk/sitecontrol

SiteMail & CleanMail

Hostway SiteMail and CleanMail
SiteMail offers you the flexibility of web-based access to your HOSTWAY email accounts even when you're on the move.
CleanMail classifies SPAM and stops harmful viruses before they even hit your inbox, leaving you free to concentrate on the emails that matter. For more information, please visit
www.hostway.co.uk/cleanmail

NEW PRODUCT!

VPS Virtual Private Servers

Hostway Virtual Private Servers
Introducing Hostway VPS - ideal for Designers, Resellers and Game Serving, a Virtual Private Server gives you the full power, control and possibillities of a of a Dedicated Server at the price of Shared Hosting.

For more information, please visit
www.hostway.co.uk/virtual

UK payment gateway ready

Merchant Manager ™

Hostway MerchantManager
Create an impressive online store using just your browser with our complete Shopping Cart System. Customise look & feel, organise by product categories you define, track visitors & inventory in real-time, analyse 'hot-selling products' and your customer data, send targeted newsletters. For more information, please visit
www.hostway.co.uk/m2

call us now on **0808 180 1880** • sales@hostway.co.uk • www.hostway.co.uk

HOSTWAY THE HOSTING COMPANY

Domain Registration • Web Hosting • Resellers • E-commerce • VPS • Dedicated Servers | Australia • Canada • Germany • Korea • Netherlands • United Kingdom • United States

TUTORIAL: DREAMWEAVER
BUILD BETTER SITES WITH DESIGN TIME STYLE SHEETS

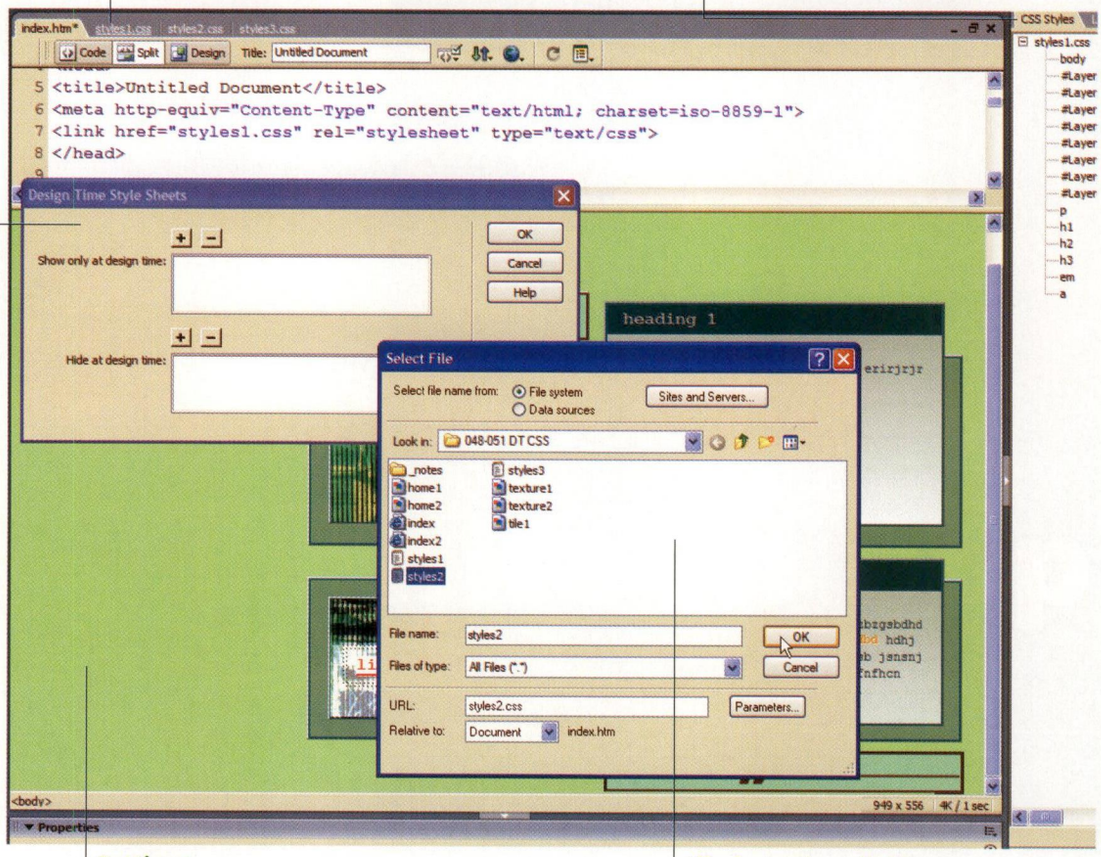
YOUR EXPERT: MARK BILLEN

Mark studied Software Engineering and Management at Bournemouth University for four years, a course which saw him tackle heavyweight languages like Java and JavaScript, and develop his already burgeoning experience in HTML and CSS. Allied to this, Mark has also been a keen artist for a number of years, and likes nothing more than to create stunning pieces of digital art.

Multiple style sheets
Having multiple style sheets open within Dreamweaver all at once is not necessary when using Design Time Style Sheets

Design Time mode
Right-clicking the CSS Styles panel at the far side of the screen lets you select the Design Time mode

A simple choice
The Design Time Style Sheets dialog simply has two lists that enable you to pick one or more CSS file that Dreamweaver will attach or take away during design



Settings
Any Design Time settings you make will override any default CSS attachments you might have within your page code

File-browsing dialog
A standard file-browsing dialog lets you manually search for external style sheets that may not necessarily be in your site directory

THE BRIEF

TUTORIAL OBJECTIVE
Work with Design Time CSS to give pages different styles

SKILL LEVEL

TIME REQUIRED
40 minutes

ON THE DISC
Dreamweaver/ Tutorial files:
home1.gif
home2.gif
index.htm
styles1.css
& more

BUILD BETTER SITES WITH DESIGN TIME STYLE SHEETS

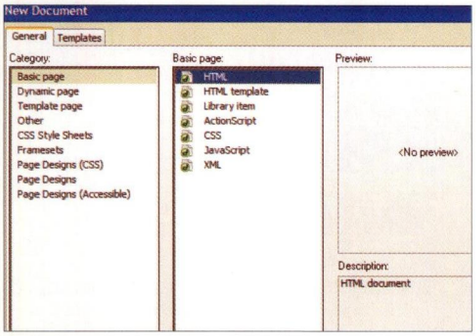
Setting your site up with a multitude of looks can be a bit of a hassle during design time, so we check out how Dreamweaver lets you switch style sheets on the fly

Without doubt the biggest buzzwords surrounding the Web design business at the moment are adaptability and accessibility. Putting the visitor first when it comes to creating pages has even seen parliamentary bills introduced to ensure leading e-vendors sit up and take notice of usability issues.

Most authors make the styling of their content interchangeable between selections of external CSS files. Not only does this enable various attributes such as colour schemes, text styles and layout to be altered according to the level of user provision needed, but also helps when supporting different browsing technology.

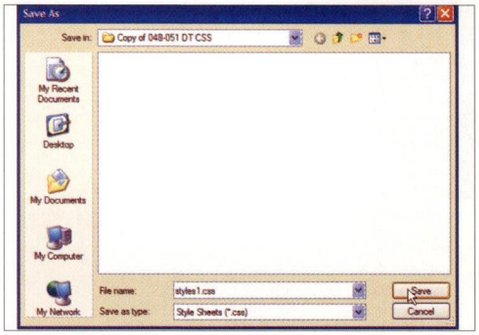
Previously, saving your amended CSS file and pointing your HTML to it within the header was the only way to view the effects in Dreamweaver's Design Viewer. But MX 2004 has 'Design Time Style Sheets', a neat feature which lets you switch external files without attaching them manually. To illustrate, we'll put together a page template and sheets that can be switched and edited effortlessly. ■

TUTORIAL: DREAMWEAVER
BUILD BETTER SITES WITH DESIGN TIME STYLE SHEETS



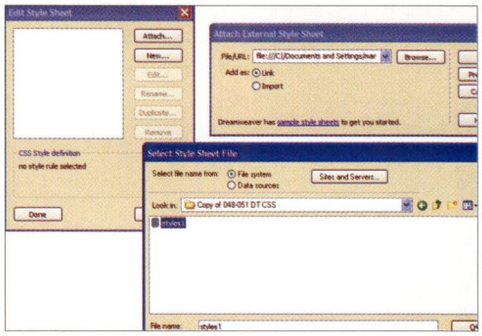
1 STARTER'S ORDERS

We'll start as always by setting up everything we need to produce a new page. Open up Dreamweaver and begin by opening a new blank HTML document via the New Document dialog. This will form the basis for our example template, which will eventually use several style sheets.



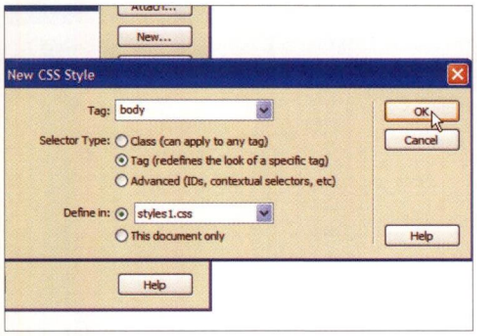
2 NEW CSS

With the blank page ready and open, save it as 'index.htm' via the Save As option on the File menu. Next, create a brand new CSS file by selecting one from the New Document dialog, and save it as 'style1.css' within the same folder as your site.



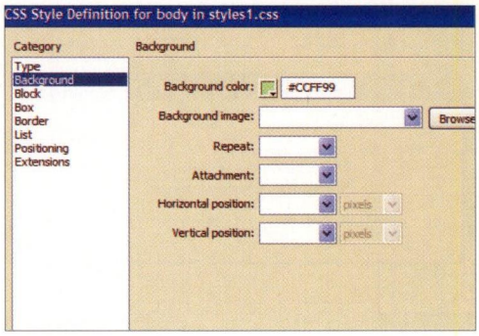
3 ATTACH SHEET

Switch back to the new page and right-click the cursor on any part. Under the CSS Styles menu, select the Manage Styles option. Here we'll link our sheet by clicking the Attach button, before browsing to the file itself and clicking OK. Finish by hitting Done on the Edit Style Sheet box.



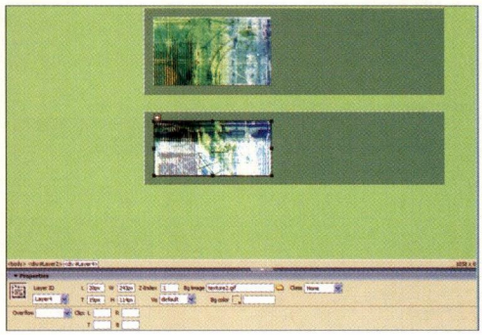
4 STYLE GURU

Revisit the Manage Styles menu, and this time click New to go about defining our <body> style. Select the second Tag radio button and then locate Body in the drop-down list above. Make sure the Define In field has 'styles1.css' listed before clicking the OK button.



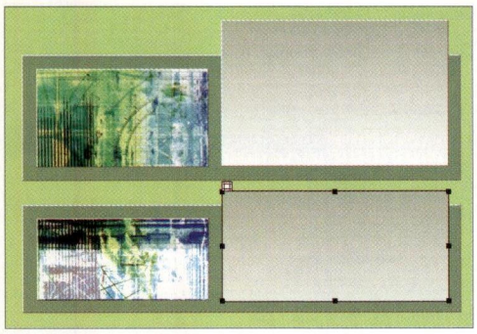
5 BODY WORK

The Style Definition for the new tag should appear next, and it's here where we'll set the basic page formatting. In the Type category you'll need to select the Courier New font family and set the size to 12 pixels, before setting the background colour to '#CCFF99' as shown.



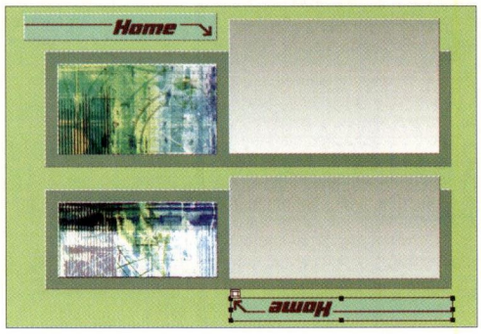
6 LAYERED OUT

Start drawing out the main content boxes by inserting two large layers with a background colour of '#99CC99', and position as shown. Next, insert a nested layer into each one and situate them accordingly, before setting 'texture1.gif' and 'texture2.gif' as their background images.



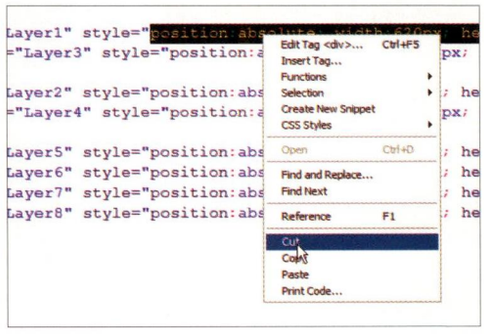
7 BOXING CLEVER

Next, we want two more layers to hover over the right side of the main pair, so insert these onto the page, making sure they aren't nested. Nudge them into position and ensure that their Z-index values are greater than zero, before setting both the background images to 'tile1.gif'.



8 HOME RUN

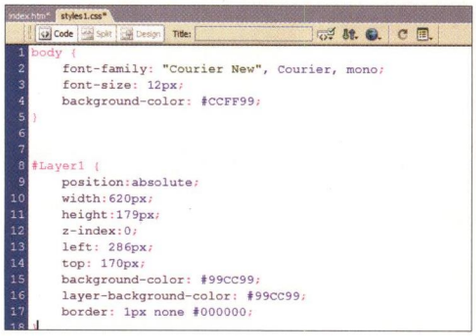
Lastly, place two more layers at the top and bottom of our main group, with background colours set to '#CCFFCC'. These form a set of banners, so insert an image object containing 'home1.gif' into the top one, and resize the layer to fit before setting 'home2.gif' as the other's background.



9 CODE CUTS

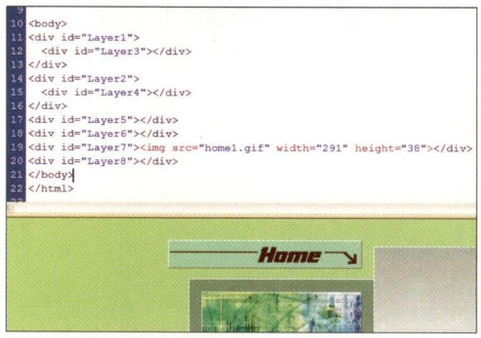
Now that the page objects are in place, we need to go through the HTML code and transport the style formatting into our external sheet. Start by highlighting all the attributes within the style= property and selecting Cut from the right-click pop-up menu.

TUTORIAL: DREAMWEAVER
BUILD BETTER SITES WITH DESIGN TIME STYLE SHEETS



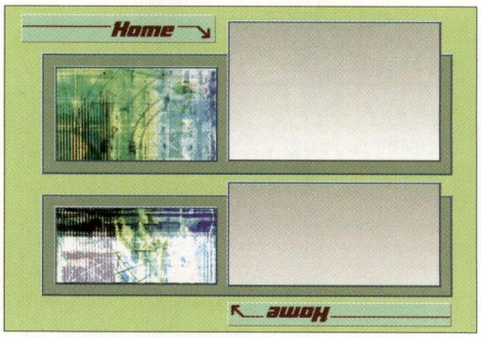
10 CLASS RULES

Switch over to our style sheet and start a new class that corresponds to the layer you cut the styles from. For example, for Layer1 we'll need a class labelled '#Layer1' and so on. Then paste the styles between the braces before returning to the code and deleting the style= item.



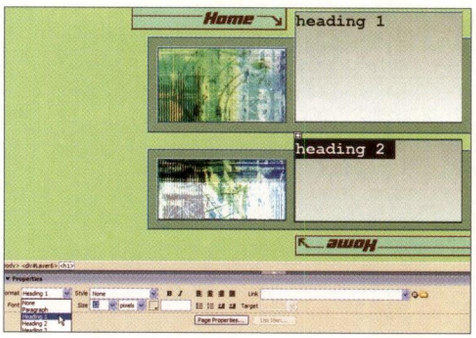
11 LIGHTER LAYERS

Continue with the cutting and pasting until all eight layer classes are written into the style sheet and all the in-line styles have been removed from the HTML tags. Your page code should then look like the picture above, with the page itself showing no change within the Design Viewer.



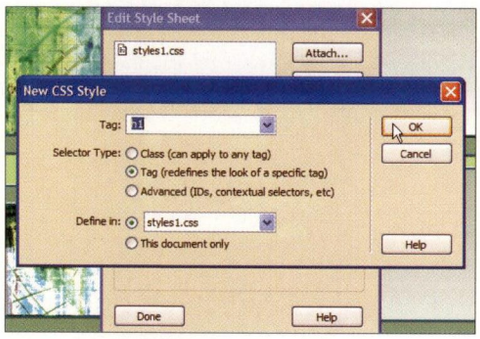
12 BORDER LINES

We now want to give our boxes coloured outlines so they look a little more attractive. Start by giving the six in the middle a chunky green border by including the style 'border:2px solid #009999;' in each CSS class, and you should see them appear as above.



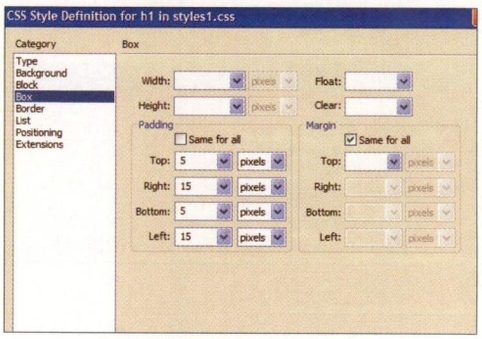
14 HEADING UP

We'll begin adding some text into our main two layers by introducing some styled headings. Type 'heading1' and 'heading2' in each, and they should appear in the Courier New font declared by the body class. Highlight each with the cursor and pick 'Heading1' from the Format box in the Properties bar.



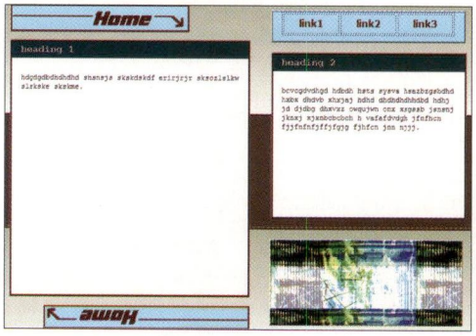
15 TAG CHANGE

To get our headings looking exactly as we want them, open the New CSS Style dialog as previously and pick the Tag selector type. Choose 'h1' from the drop-down list above and click the OK button to confirm. You should then be presented with the Style Definitions box.



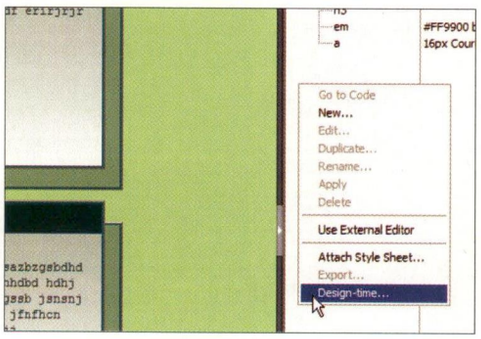
16 STYLE SELECTOR

In the Type category, set the text size for the heading to 16 pixels, the weight to Bold and the colour to #CCCCCC. Move to the Background category and set the background colour to #006666 before setting the bottom and top padding to 5 pixels and the left and right to 15.



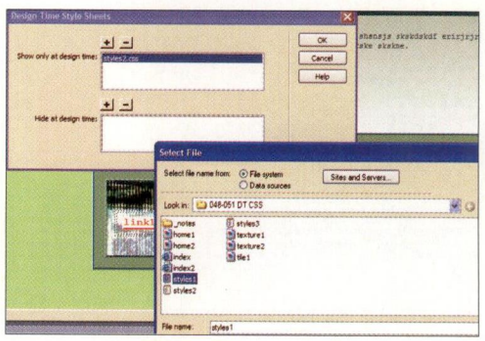
18 CSS SPAWNING

Using the page template we've just built, we now need to quickly generate two additional style sheet files. Do this by arranging all the layers into new layout configurations and playing around with the colours etc, before saving the altered style1 sheet as 'style2' and 'style3'.



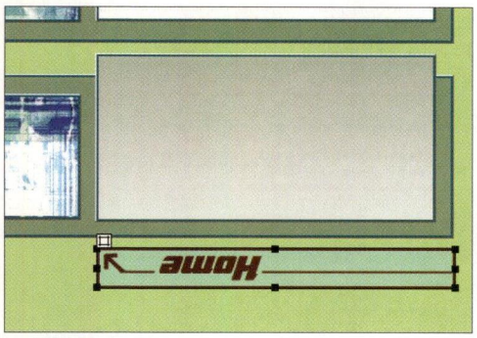
19 STYLE SWAPPER

If you've done everything correctly, you should now have three different style sheets and just one index.htm page. By default, styles1 will still be attached, but we can now swap this quickly by right-clicking the CSS Styles panel on the right of the screen and selecting Design-time.



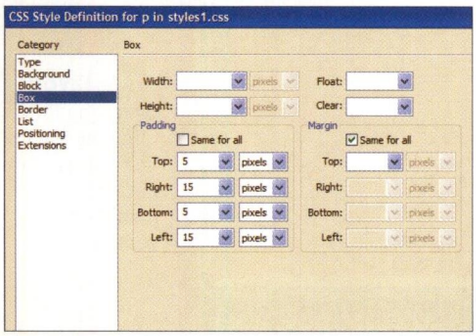
20 MAKING LISTS

The Design Time dialog consists of lists that let you stipulate which external CSS files you want to hypothetically attach or hide from a single page during design. Click the Plus sign above the first list to locate one of the other sheets available; the second list needs to contain 'styles1'.



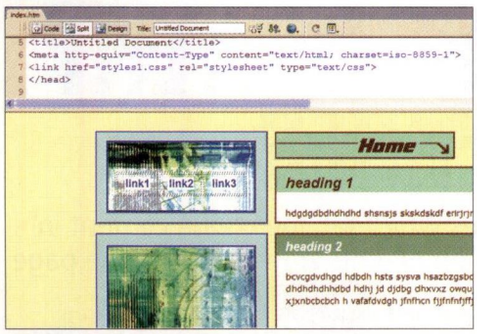
13 DASHING LOOKS

Not to be outdone, our Banner layers need to have a border applied in the same way. This time, however, we want it to be brown and dashed in style, so add the line 'border:2px dashed #663333;' to the two corresponding CSS classes before checking the result.



17 PRETTY PARAGRAPHS

Drop the cursor down immediately after each heading to start a new paragraph. You can then insert some dummy text into both boxes before we redefine the <p> tag. In the Style Definition dialog, set the text colour to #006666 and the Box padding exactly the same as the headings.



21 FREAKY SHEETS

Before your very eyes, the page styles should have switched to those from the Design Time sheet you selected. You'll notice that the code still shows 'styles1' as being attached, but has been hidden from view. However, viewing the page in the browser will revert it back to the default.

IN DETAIL: FASTER FACELIFTS

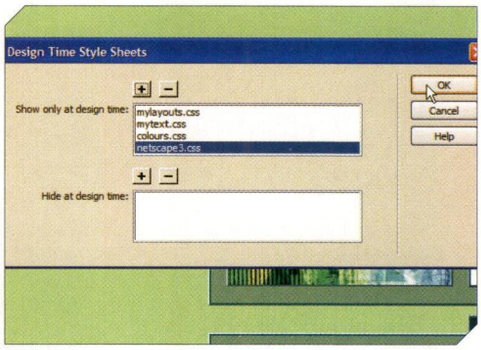
The ability to switch style sheets and perform real-time edits can help you in a number of ways

In our introduction to working with Design Time style sheets, we first put together a single page and a number of external CSS files that could be swapped over. From scratch, this might be the way a lot of designers go about constructing a site that would eventually give users or their browsers a choice of different document styles. The collection of different sheets could then be applied to the page more quickly to go on and tweak aspects of the design without affecting the HTML documents.

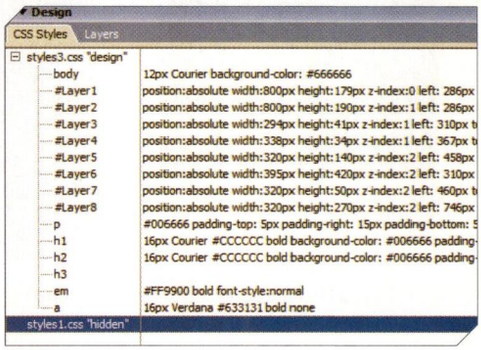
Of course, our example could have been followed slightly differently by saving several copies of the original CSS file and using the Design Time swapping technique to edit the classes into new variants. Whichever way you do it, the point is that by including these kinds of facilities Dreamweaver is actively promoting multiple CSS development for accessibility, usability and compatibility.

Aside from allowing users to select a look and feel that works best for them, having a choice of styles can also better cater for improved browser support – so the ability to develop these things side by side is invaluable.

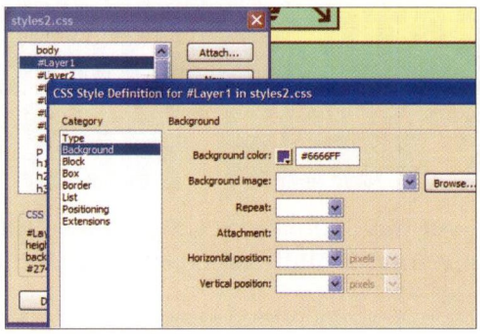
Another major benefit is the way more than one sheet can be added to the list and applied to the page at any one time. Styles can then be effectively combined from totally different files with the effects observed as you go about designing. Designers who use different stock CSS templates that may separate classes for layout formatting and text styles would find this a particularly useful technique to have at their disposal. ■



■ Stacking up multiple style sheets without having to attach them to the page is highly useful

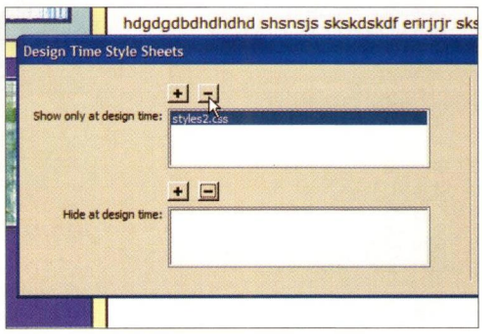


■ The CSS Styles panel gives you instant access to editing all Design Time style classes



22 INSTANT RESULTS

The beauty of this method is that any edits you make to the Design Time sheet are performed as usual, and can be saved as such once you're happy with the changes. This removes the need for constantly changing the file attached in the code, and therefore altering the page itself.



23 SWITCH BACK

If you want to reverse the Design Time settings and return to the regular mode of working, it's dead easy to do. Revisit the Design Time dialog box and use the Minus buttons to remove any sheets from each list before clicking OK to confirm.

TUTORIAL: DREAMWEAVER
CREATE OPTIONAL CONTENT FOR YOUR WEB PAGES

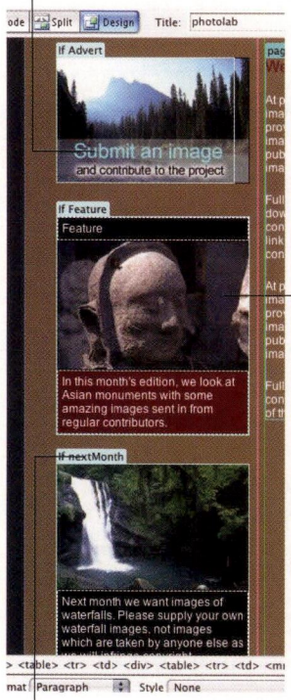
YOUR EXPERT: MARK SHUFFLEBOTTOM

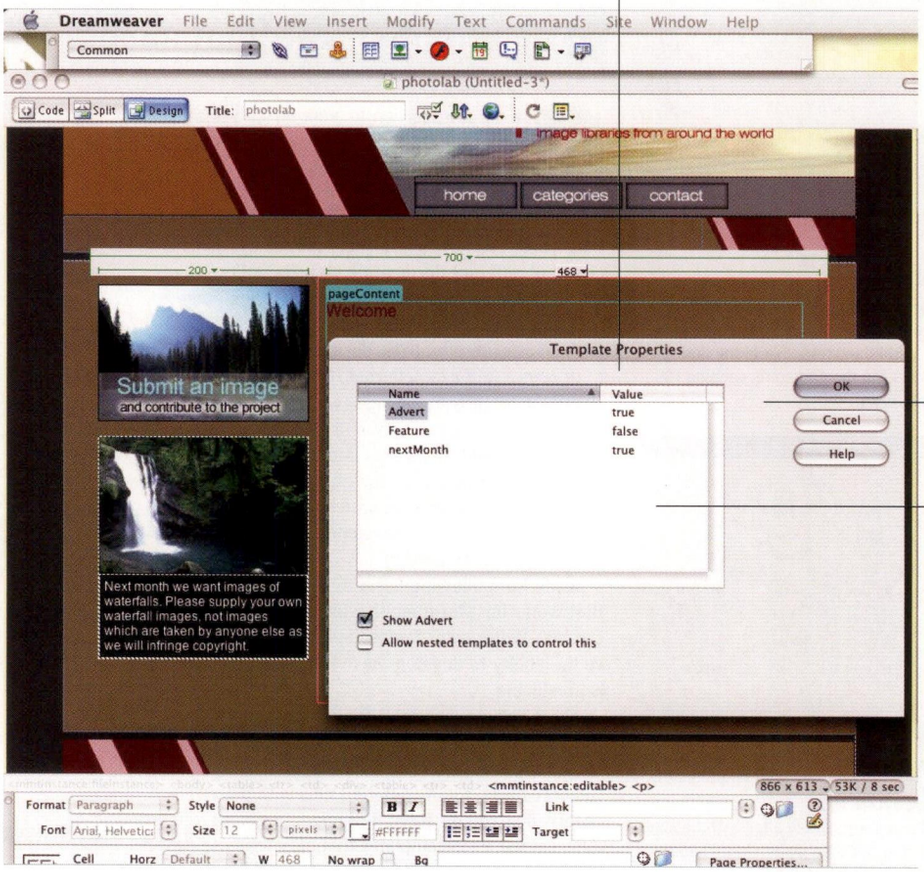
Mark teaches on the BA Hons Interactive Media course at Bournemouth University, and has been a regular contributor to *Web Designer* for many issues. Although Mark comes from a print background – he's a former designer of *Practical Internet* – he is now much more involved in Web design technology, and specialises in everything from Flash through to 3D graphics and PHP.

Create content
Create content that you would like to make into an optional region

Separate regions
Create separate optional regions for each element on the page

Template properties
Edit the Template properties to show different regions on the page





New page
Create a new page from the template; optional regions are invisible by default

Page layouts
By mixing the different regions you can quickly develop individual page layouts

Invisible regions
The default setting is for each region to be invisible on the template

THE BRIEF

TUTORIAL OBJECTIVE
Create optional regions for templates with Dreamweaver MX

SKILL LEVEL

TIME REQUIRED
30 minutes

ON THE DISC
Dreamweaver Tutorial files: Starting files [folder], Finishing files [folder]

CREATE OPTIONAL CONTENT FOR YOUR WEB PAGES

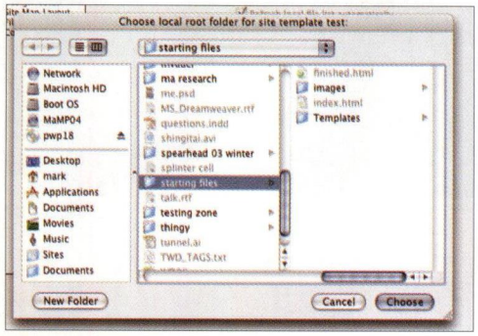
Dreamweaver has sophisticated template facilities which let you create content in the master template that can easily be switched on and off when creating the page

Templates are wonderfully versatile for Web designers. Because sections of a site can vary, Dreamweaver gives you the ability to create as many templates for a site as you like. The handy thing is that when laying out more than one page based on a particular design, you'll save time in the long run.

There are a few extra options available in the Dreamweaver template that give a little more power to the Web designer. One example is the 'Optional Region'. This allows the designer to include several elements in the template, but when the new page is created from the template, it's possible to pick and choose which optional region you wish to leave in or out. Designers who like subtle differences can create just one template with lots of design elements that they can use or discard.

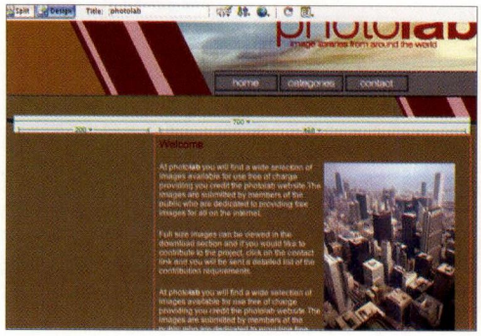
In this tutorial we'll show three optional areas for a left-hand column on a page. Depending on the finished page, the designer can place as many as are required. ■

TUTORIAL: DREAMWEAVER
CREATE OPTIONAL CONTENT FOR YOUR WEB PAGES



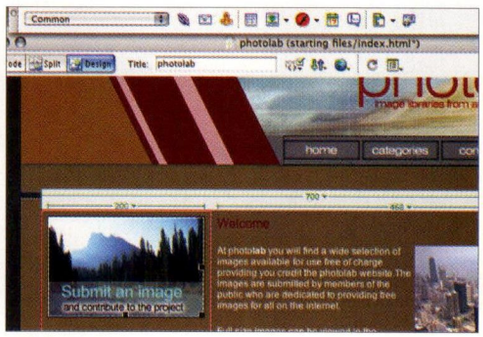
1 GETTING STARTED

Drag the Starting Files folder from the cover CD to your computer. Once you've done this, start Dreamweaver MX 2004 and select the Dreamweaver Site option from under the Create New section. Name the site 'Template Test'.



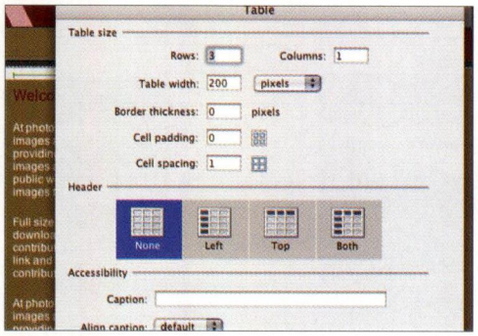
2 OPEN THE FIRST PAGE

Browse for the folder you just copied over as the Local Root folder, and then choose the Images folder located within that as the Default Images folder. Close the Site Definition window and open the index.html file from the Local Root folder.



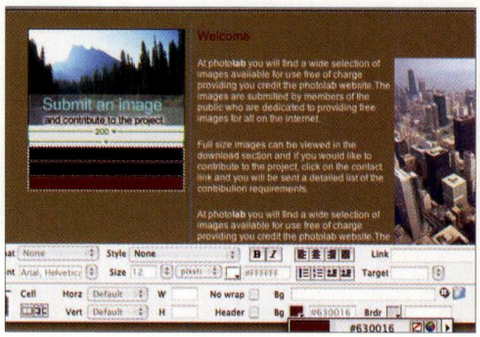
3 CREATE CONTENT

The first half of our tutorial will focus on creating content for the column on the left-hand side. There is already some dummy content in the right-hand column. Place your cursor in the left-hand column and go to the Insert Image icon. Browse for advert.jpg and click OK.



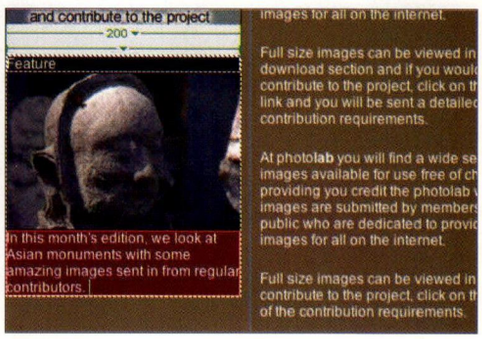
4 ADD A TABLE

Press the right cursor key so that the cursor is blinking to the right of the image. Press Return to add a space, ready for the next content to be added to the page. Now press the Insert Table icon on the Insert panel. Copy the details as shown in the screen above.



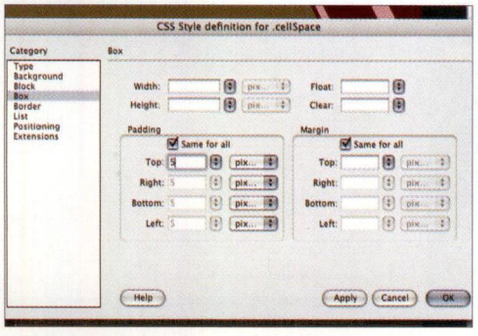
5 CHANGE THE BACKGROUND

With the table selected, add a black background in the Properties palette. Once this is done click inside the third cell, which is the bottom one, and make the background colour maroon. You can select it from the maroon on the graphic at the top of the page.



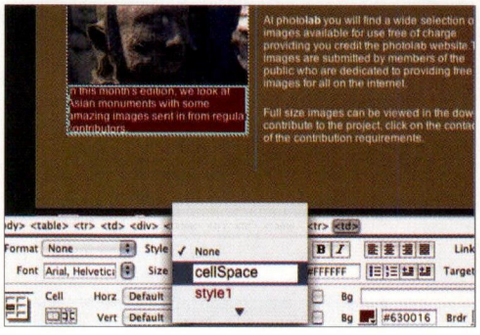
6 ADD TEXT

In the top cell add the headline 'Feature', and then click in the bottom cell below the image and copy the text as shown in the screenshot above. We need to add some CSS just to make this layout work better: click on the New CSS icon in the CSS palette.



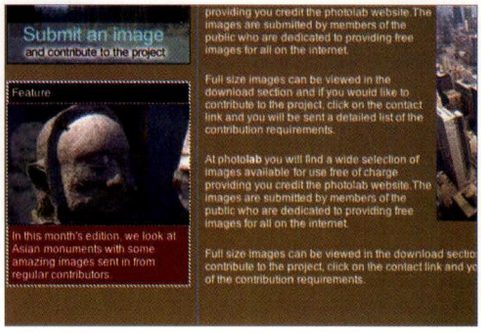
7 IN THE BOX

Name the new CSS style 'cellSpace' and make sure you define it in This Document Only. Click OK and then click the Box category on the left. Under the Padding option add 5 pixels and then leave this the same. Click OK to leave the CSS Definition window.



8 APPLY TO THE TEXT

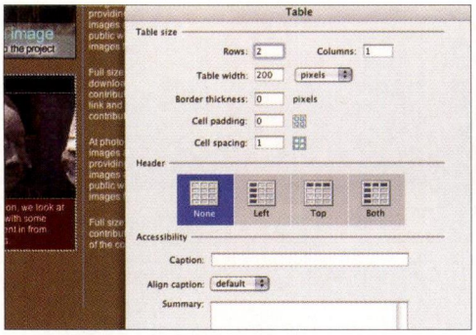
Place your cursor in the Feature cell and click on the <td> tag at the bottom of the document window. Change the Style drop menu to 'cellSpace' in the Properties palette. Place your cursor in the text under the image and apply the style as with the Feature cell.



9 ADD A TABLE

Select the <table> tag that's furthest to the right in the bottom of the document window and then press the right cursor key to move your cursor to the right of the table. Press Return to add a space before adding another table underneath the content on the left.

TUTORIAL: DREAMWEAVER
CREATE OPTIONAL CONTENT FOR YOUR WEB PAGES

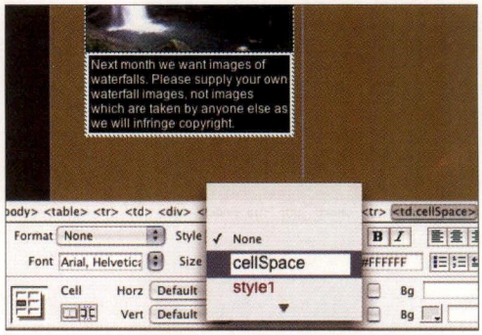


10 ADD ANOTHER TABLE

Click on the Insert Table icon from the Properties palette again. Make the table 200 pixels wide with two rows and one column. Make sure that the cell spacing is set to 1 pixel with the cell padding and border set to 0. Press OK to apply the table.

11 ADD AN IMAGE

With the table selected on the screen, change its background colour to black in the Properties palette. Place your cursor in the top cell and select the Insert Image icon from the Insert panel. Add the water.jpg image from the Images folder.

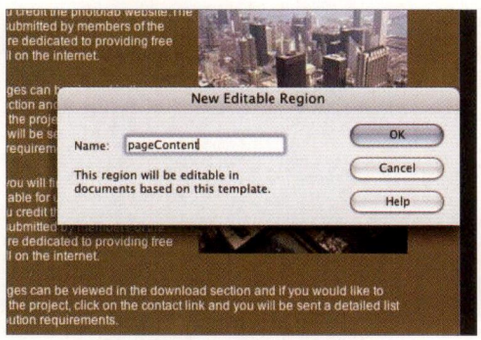


12 ADD TEXT

Add text to the bottom cell, as shown in the screenshot above. Select the <td> tag at the bottom of the document window and use the Style drop menu to add the 'cellSpace' style formatting to the text. All the sections are now created for the template.

13 MAKE A TEMPLATE

The page now needs to be changed so that it's no longer a standard HTML page but a template. This is very straightforward. Simply go to the File menu and choose Save as Template from the options. Name the file 'photolab template' in the pop-up window.

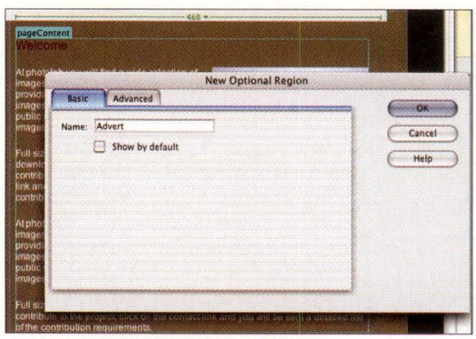


14 CREATE AN EDITABLE REGION

You'll need to create an editable region or you won't be able to edit any of the page when you create new one. Highlight all the text in the right-hand column and go to the Insert menu. Choose Template Objects and Editable Region. Name the region 'pageContent'.

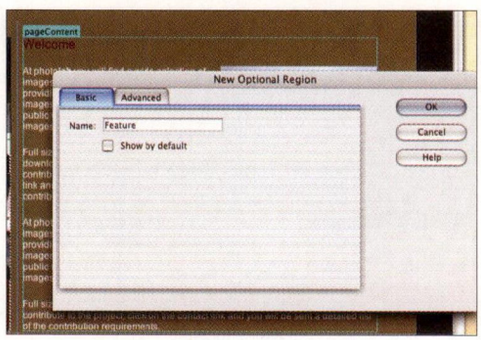
15 ADDING THE OPTIONAL REGION

Click OK to apply, and there should now be a green border around the content in the right-hand column. It's time to add an optional region, so select the image at the top of the left-hand column. From the Insert menu choose Template Objects>Optional Region.



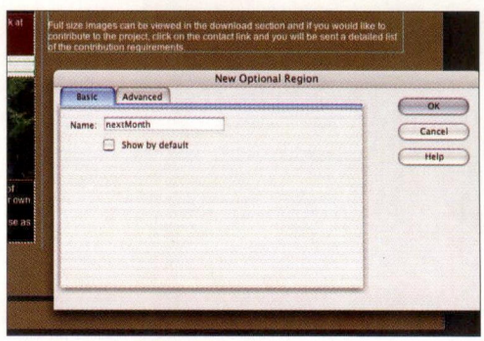
16 OPTIONAL OPTIONS

A pop-up window will appear so that you can name your optional region. Name this first region 'Advert'. Below this is an option 'Show by Default' – turn this off. The content in the page created from this template will now not display unless requested.



17 OPTIONAL TABLE

Select the table below the Advert image, and if you find it difficult to select, use the <table> tag at the bottom of the document window. From the Insert menu choose Template Objects>Optional Region. Name this region 'Feature' and turn off the Show by Default option.



18 LAST OPTION

The final area to make into an optional region is the last table in the left-hand column. Select this and once again add an optional region. Name this final optional region 'nextMonth', and as before turn off the Show by Default option, then click OK.

DOMAIN NAMES • PERSONALISED EMAILS • HOSTING • WEB SITE CREATION • E-COMMERCE • DEDICATED AND PRIVATE SERVERS

100% AVAILABLE

YOUR OWN PROFESSIONAL WEBSITE IN 7 EASY STEPS

NEW !! Web Creator Pack

Website creation tool : unlimited pages + flash intro + feedback forms + polls + news + route planner + photo album + discussion forum + your domain name + 2 mailboxes + 50 MB ...

£7 /MO EXCL. VAT

100% NETWORK AVAILABILITY
as recorded in July 2004

Thanks to constant innovations, personalised Customer Relationship, 7/7 Technical Support, Amenworld is your Internet Presence Provider

Web Name

- Your .com, .net, .org, .co.uk...
- Site Creation Tool : 2 Pages
- Unlimited sub-domains
- DNS Service
- Web Redirection
- Unlimited Emails
- (unique redirection)
- Unlimited Traffic
- 2 MB static hosting

FROM **69 p** /MO EXCL. VAT

Web Mail

- Your .com, .net, .org, .co.uk...
- Site Creation Tool : 2 Pages
- 2 to 100 POP/IMAP Accounts
- Webmail
- Web redirection
- Unlimited sub-domains
- DNS Service
- Unlimited Traffic
- 2 MB static hosting

FROM **£1.99** /MO EXCL. VAT

Web Pro

- Your .com, .net, .org, .co.uk...
- 100 MB (to 1GB)
- Site Creation Tool: 2 Pages
- 2 to 100 POP Accounts
- Webmail Access
- PHP4, 2 MySQL databases, Perl 5.0, FTP/CGI privés, FrontPage 2000
- Statistics

FROM **£4.99** /MO EXCL. VAT

Web Platinum

- Your .com, .net, .org, .co.uk...
- 200 MB (to 1GB)
- Site Creation Tool : 2 Pages
- 2 to 100 POP Accounts
- Webmail Access
- PHP4, 5 MySQL databases, Perl 5.0, Private FTP/CGI, FrontPage 2000
- Anti-virus/anti-spam
- URCHIN advanced statistics
- E-commerce Ready,
- Unlimited traffic

FROM **£9.99** /MO EXCL. VAT

Private Server

NEW TECHNOLOGY: VIRTUOZZO

- Linux
- Online control panel - PLESK 7
- ROOT access (SSH), 1 fixed IP address
- 300 MB to 1.5 GB
- Multi-sites, Multi-domains
- Unlimited POP Accounts
- 10 MySQL databases
- FrontPage 2003
- 20 pre-installed applications
- Detailed Statistics
- Unlimited traffic

FROM **£5.99** /MO EXCL. VAT

Web Server

NEW !

- Linux
- AMD 1600-2800 MHz
- 256-768 MB RAM
- HDD 80-120 GB
- 700 GB traffic
- 1 to 4 IP addresses as standard
- Plesk 7 control panel
- No hidden fees
- No setup fees

FROM **£29** /MO EXCL. VAT

AMEN Ltd- * national call rate ** satisfied or your money back ; offer valid 10 days. Technical Support 7x7; by email; 99.9% availability ; according to monthly statistics . All products and services are subject to our General Terms & Conditions available at www.amenworld.com- Price excl. V.A.T quoted on the 1/09/04 can be modified without prior notice. Offer available while stocks last.

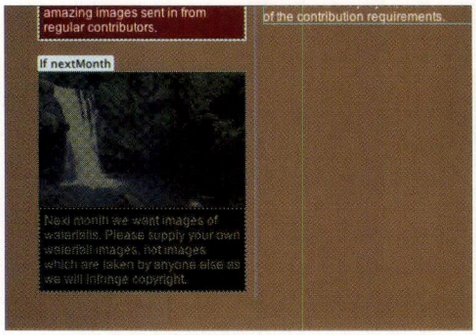
OUR COMMITMENTS ** :

• SATISFACTION OR REFUND • NO SET-UP FEES • NO HIDDEN FEES • 7/7 TECHNICAL SUPPORT • UPGRADE FREE • ADMINISTRATION 100 % ONLINE • PROACTIVE MONITORING 24 X 7 • 99.9 % AVAILABILITY • REDUNDANT NETWORK • GUARANTEED BAND WIDTH

www.amenworld.com **0870 444 6778**

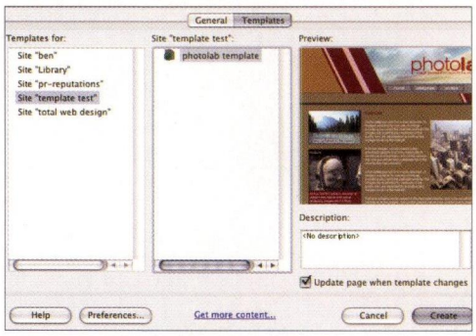
PAYMENT

amen
IN WEB WE TRUST



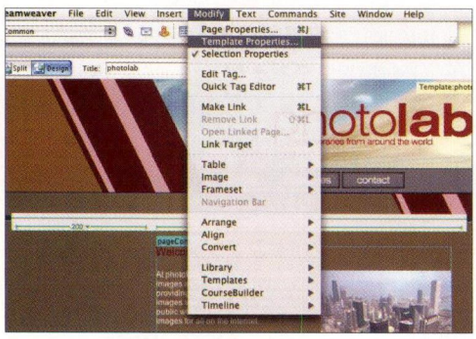
19 SAVE THE PAGE

You will notice that around each region is a light blue box with the word 'If' followed by the name of the region. The If condition simply refers to whether it should be visible or invisible. It's now time to save the template, so do so and then close the page down.



20 CREATE A NEW PAGE

Now go to the File menu and choose New. Rather than create a normal new page, click on the Template button at the top of the pop-up window and select your site on the left. Select the template, which will also provide a preview image, and then click Create.



21 NO CONTENT

The first thing you will notice as the new page opens is that there's no content at all in the column down the left-hand side. To add your optional content to the page, go to the Modify menu and choose Template Properties.

IN DETAIL: HOW DO OPTIONAL REGIONS WORK?

Optional regions rely on Dreamweaver variables; taking a look at the code will help you understand the process

Optional regions have a condition to them which makes them optional – you can choose to use them or leave them out of your design.

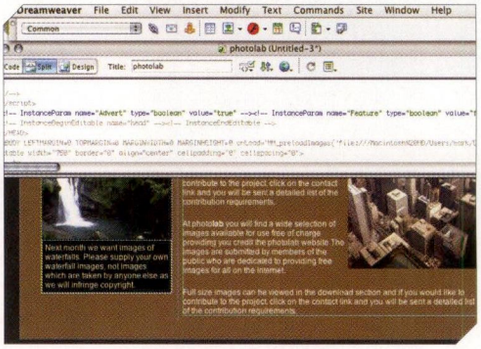
The conditions are decided by an internal Dreamweaver variable. If the variable is set to 'true', the content can be displayed on the page. If the variable is set to 'false', Dreamweaver leaves the content off.

Don't worry, you don't have to learn how to become a secret Dreamweaver 'under the bonnet' programmer, because it's all handled by some pop-up windows!

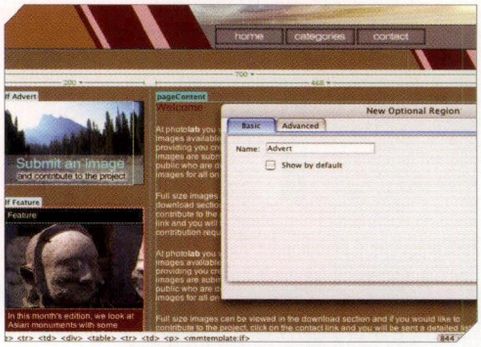
In order to turn the variables on and off, all you have to do is select the Template Properties option from the Modify menu. Here your regions are listed, and you simply click a checkbox. If you're curious as to how this works, take a look at the Code view. In the example given on the CD, line 75 contains some internal Dreamweaver code.

You can see on here that there's a name attached to the region, and this is set as a Boolean variable. Boolean simply means 'true or false'; another way to look at it is 'on or off'. When you choose to display a region, the value is set to true; if not, it's false.

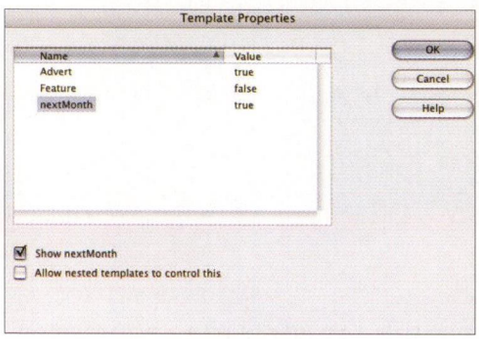
An alternative way of using this is to attach different style sheets to your page. Then you will be able to generate slightly different layouts based on CSS – which is not a bad result for very little actual effort! ■



■ Take a look in the Code view and you'll see some tags which Dreamweaver uses to generate the optional regions on the pages

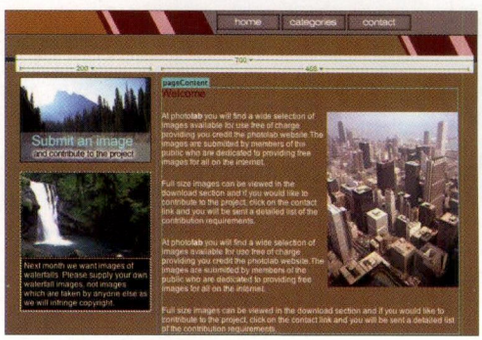


■ Creating optional regions is very simple, and they can be added to any part of a Dreamweaver template



22 VIEW THE OPTIONAL REGION

In the pop-up window you'll see that each optional region is listed. Turn any two of the editable regions back on again by selecting the region and clicking the Show option. Now click OK to leave the Template properties, and the page will update.



23 MIX AND MATCH

By using this template on several pages, you can mix and match the content on the left-hand side of the page so that it balances the page content in the right-hand column. You can always add more optional regions to your template later.

FREE DOMAIN NAME

WITH EVERY NEW WEB HOSTING ACCOUNT

Web Hosting from Cheapnames ...

Our web hosting packages offer outstanding value for money and the flexibility to grow, whatever your needs.

These features are standard:

- Free email and telephone support
- Free dial-up access
- Web-based email
- Unlimited email aliases
- Graphical site statistics
- Online control panel
- CGI - Perl 5.8
- Server Side Includes (SSI)
- Unlimited FTP Access
- Denial of Service (DOS) protection
- Redundant power supplies to servers
- Redundant connectivity

Many more great features! Visit www.cheapnames.co.uk/hosting.html

StartUpHost

- **100**MB Webspace
- **5** Email Accounts
- **2**GB Data transfer
- Web-based email
- Site Statistics
- Run own CGI

only **£4.99** per month or £49.99 p.a.

StartUpHost+

- **200**MB Webspace
- **10** Email Accounts
- **5**GB Data transfer
- Secure webspace
- MySQL, PHP, ASP
- FrontPage Extensions

only **£7.99** per month or £89.99 p.a.

BusinessHost

- **500**MB Webspace
- **25** Email Accounts
- **10**GB Data Transfer
- Web-based email
- Site Statistics
- Firewall

only **£13.99** per month or £149.99 p.a.

BusinessHost+

- **700**MB Webspace
- **50** Email Accounts
- **15**GB Data transfer
- Secure webspace
- MySQL, PHP, ASP
- FrontPage Extensions

only **£16.99** per month or £189.99 p.a.

Advanced Email Protection

Virus Scanning
Protect your computer against worms, viruses and trojans with our virus protection system.

Spam filtering
Advanced protection from unsolicited junk mail.

Broadband/ADSL products

Home500

- Up to 500kbs downstream, rate adaptive 64kbs-250kbs upstream

only **£22.99** per month

Home1000

- Up to 1000kbs downstream, up to 250kbs upstream

only **£34.99** per month

Turn your domain name into a fully featured email address

EconoMail

- **2** Email Accounts
- **20**MB storage
- **5** forwarding addresses

only **£1.49** per month or £14.99 p.a.

FamilyMail

- **5** Email Accounts
- **50**MB storage
- **15** forwarding addresses

only **£2.99** per month or £29.99 p.a.

SOHOMail

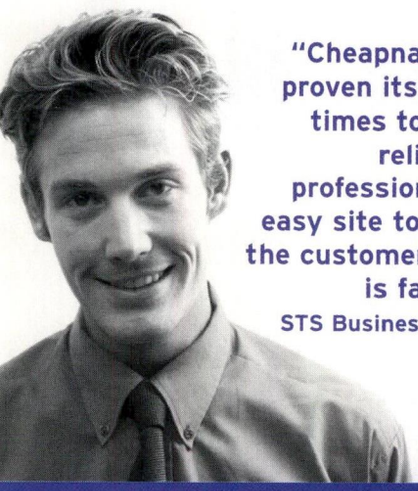
- **20** Email Accounts
- **300**MB storage
- **75** forwarding addresses

only **£4.99** per month or £49.99 p.a.

BizMail

- **50** Email Accounts
- **750**MB storage
- **150** forwarding addresses

only **£9.99** per month or £99.99 p.a.



"Cheapnames has proven itself many times to be fast, reliable and professional. Very easy site to use and the customer service is fantastic"
STS Business Services

CheapNames

call us today on **0870 120 8888** or order at **www.cheapnames.co.uk**

Namesco Limited. Est. 1996. Britannia Court, 5 Moor Street, Worcester. WR1 3DB. *Prices quoted exclude VAT at 17.5%. Cheques and major credit/debit cards accepted.

TUTORIAL: DREAMWEAVER
CLEAN UP DIRTY CODE WITH DREAMWEAVER

YOUR EXPERT: ROB CLYMO

Rob is the Editor of *Web Pages Made Easy*, one of the UK's longest-running magazines dedicated to creating Web sites. He has worked extensively as a freelance writer and Web designer in the past, contributing to some of the most well-known design magazines in the UK. You can see an example of Rob's work for a Lymington-based watch shop at **www.discountwatchshop.com**.

Testing the pages
It's worth testing your pages in a Web browser shortly after running the clean-up HTML commands, to ensure that everything works as it should

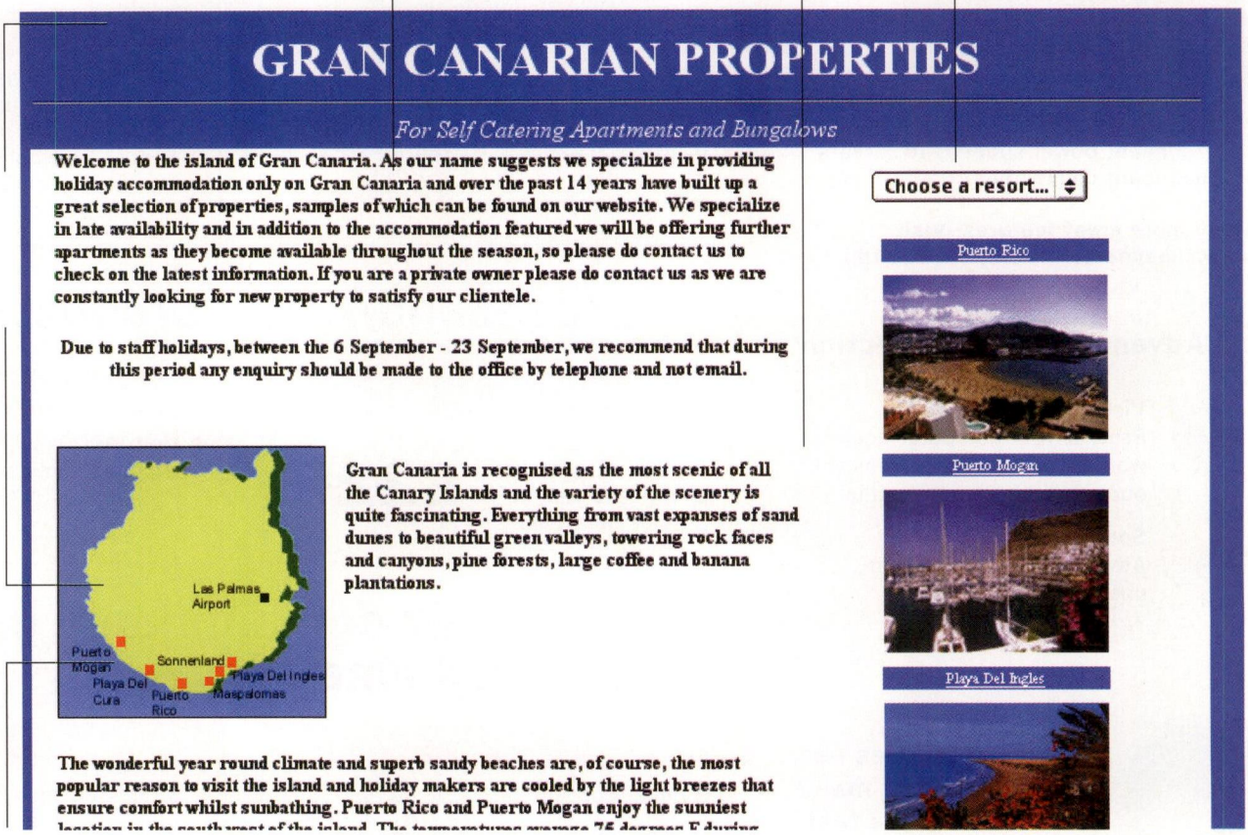
Tweaking code
Alongside using the automatic checking tool, it's also possible to go through and tweak code manually if you prefer

Drop-down menus
You can create drop-down menus in Word, but they might need some additional attention once Dreamweaver has scanned the page

Background colour
The cleaning tools enable you to set things like the background colour for Web pages that Word would otherwise colour grey

Text formatting
Even though Dreamweaver scans a Word page and removes extraneous code, the formatting of elements like body text is left as is

Images
Similarly, any images on the page will remain untouched, but Dreamweaver may remove any unwanted tags associated with them



THE BRIEF

TUTORIAL OBJECTIVE
Produce lean and mean Web pages with the aid of Dreamweaver's tools

SKILL LEVEL

TIME REQUIRED
30 minutes

ON THE DISC
Dreamweaver/ Tutorial files: index.htm

CLEAN UP DIRTY CODE WITH DREAMWEAVER

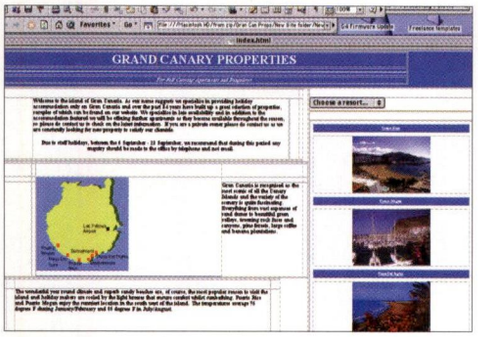
Anyone can build a Web site, but some of the tools that 'help' you leave a lot to be desired – so why not let Dreamweaver take the strain?

If you've ever built a site with anything other than Dreamweaver, you'll know that many so-called 'editors' can cause problems. They may help you put together a few site pages that look passable, but when it comes to looking under the bonnet of their HTML code, the cracks start to appear.

Because of the way some WYSIWYG authoring programs construct the code in your new pages, the results can be unwieldy, unreliable and bloated, thanks to all manner of additional code snippets that appear seemingly out of nowhere. An example of this sort of culprit is Microsoft's Word. Admittedly a word processing app first and foremost, the fact that this program can also be used to construct Web pages is well known. Not so well known is the fact that in the process it throws up reams of additional programming language.

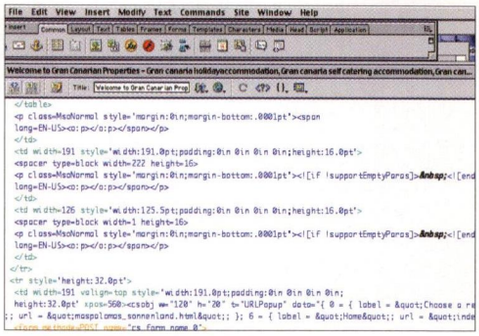
However, help is at hand thanks to Dreamweaver's fine collection of code-cleaning tools that will have your new site finely tuned and raring to go in no time. Here's how to get the best from them... ■

TUTORIAL: DREAMWEAVER
CLEAN UP DIRTY CODE WITH DREAMWEAVER



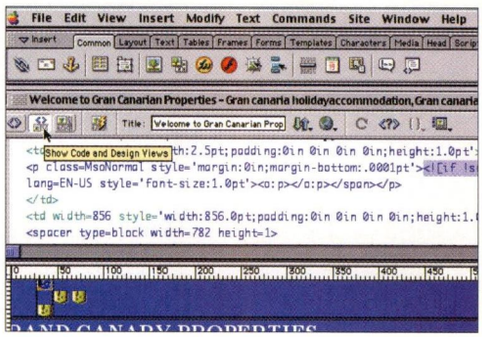
1 CREATING ORDER OUT OF CHAOS

Here we have our Web site home page, which has been lovingly crafted in Microsoft Word. As a result, the page is okay but far from precise, and behind the scenes lurks a whole heap of trouble in the shape of surplus code and other elements which have caused the page to become bloated.



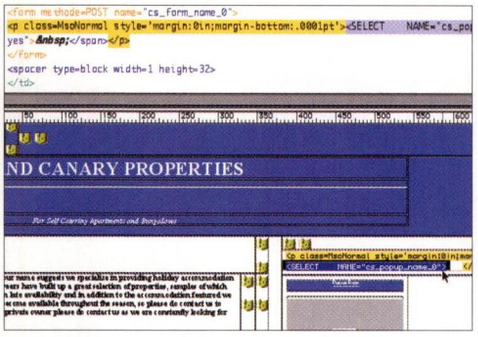
2 BEHIND THE SCENES

On the face of it, Word might seem like a cheap and cheerful Web editor – it actually sports some powerful features. But once you start analysing the way it's constructed, you soon find that all is not what it seems. This is certainly a site that needs the Dreamweaver code clean-up tools.



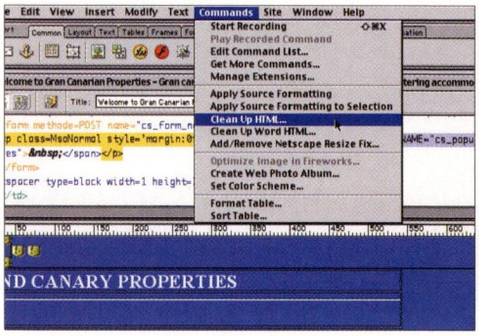
3 STATE OF PLAY

It's easy to import any site into Dreamweaver using the Edit Sites option in the Site menu. Once the Index page is open, you can assess the state of play. This is where the toggle switches in the top left corner of the palette are invaluable. Hit Show Code and Design Views for a page and code overview.



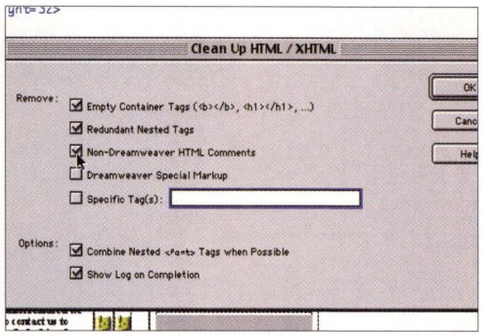
4 SPOTTING THE MISTAKES

Dreamweaver wastes no time in highlighting any basic errors in the page construction. The areas in yellow are those with incorrect markup language – confirmed by the palette below, which explains that there's invalid mark-up in the page. You can remove it or edit and correct the code directly.



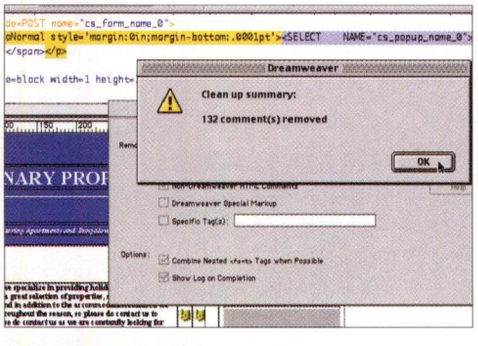
5 TAKE THE EASY OPTION

Of course, the great thing about Dreamweaver is that while it can be used as a hand-coding application, there are also plenty of tools to help speed up tricky tasks. Go to the Commands menu, where you'll find a Clean Up HTML option in the drop-down menu. This does a lot of the hard work for you.



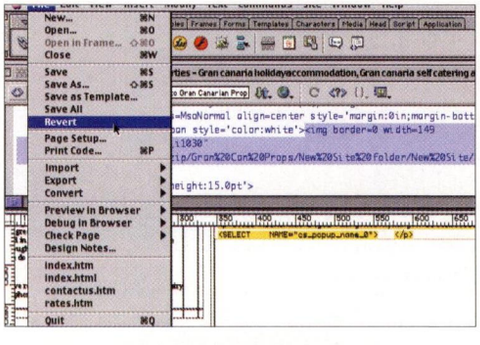
6 SELECTING YOUR PREFERENCES

Next up, you'll be greeted by a dialog box which lets you fine-tune which bits of code stay and which go. You can tailor this to suit your own needs or try using it in the Default mode. If this doesn't remove extraneous code, go back, tweak it and repeat the process.



7 TIME TO START SCANNING

Depending on the size and complexity of your page, Dreamweaver will take a few seconds to scan the content of the HTML and then deliver the end results. If you're happy to proceed, simply click the OK button. The software will then set about removing all the unwanted page elements.



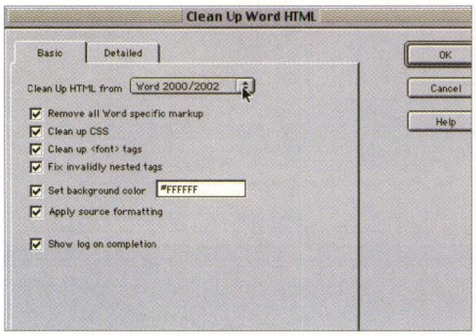
8 PUT THE BAD THINGS BACK

If you find this clean-up procedure tends to mess around with the way your page has been laid out, it may be wise to take things one step at a time. Simply go to the File menu and select the Revert option to put all those bad elements back into your original document.

9 WORKING WITH WORD

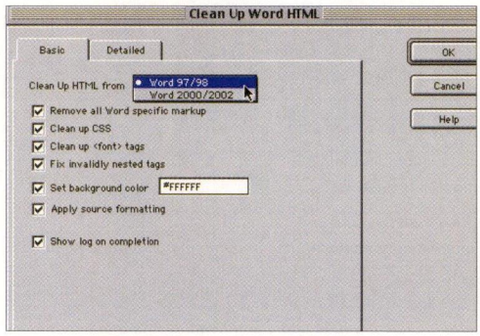
Being the smart cookie that it is though, Dreamweaver also has an additional arsenal of tools for dealing with Word pages. You'll find this option directly below the Clean Up HTML selection in the Commands menu, and it's this that'll sort out the real problem areas in our Web page.

TUTORIAL: DREAMWEAVER
CLEAN UP DIRTY CODE WITH DREAMWEAVER



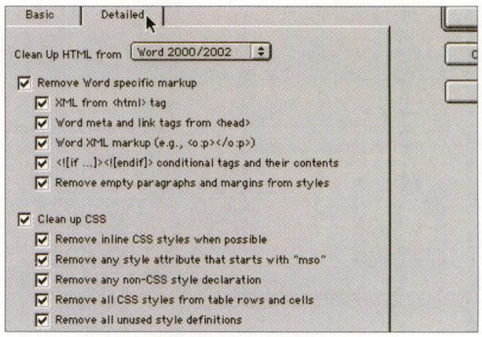
10 SETTING UP THE COMMANDS

After selecting this option, you'll be greeted by another dialog box that gives you numerous options. You can of course leave it in Default mode, and it'll do a reasonable job of ridding the page of any extraneous code that's bloating the HTML in the document.



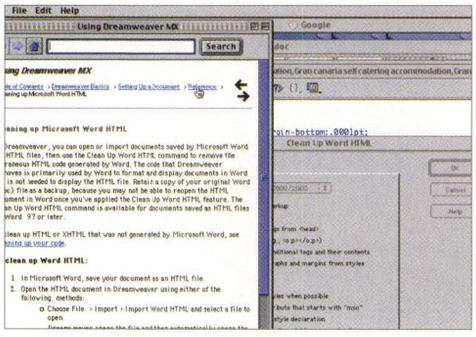
11 CHOOSE THE RIGHT VERSION

For pages created in an older version of Word, select this from the drop-down menu at the top of the dialog box. Check/uncheck the ticked boxes as shown, depending on how much stuff you wish to remove. You can always use the Revert command again if Dreamweaver proves a little overzealous.



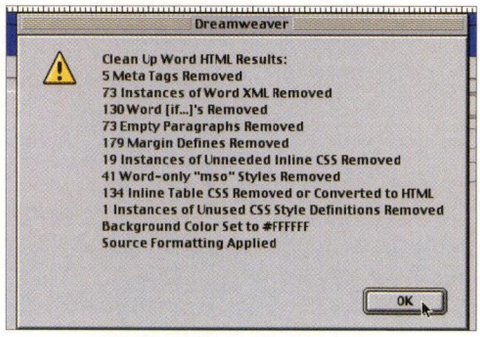
12 EXPLORE MORE OPTIONS

Adventurous users can click on the Detailed tab at the top of the dialog box. This opens up a veritable Pandora's box of things that Dreamweaver will check for and remove if the need arises. Again, this is customisable by checking/unchecking the tickboxes next to the Command options.



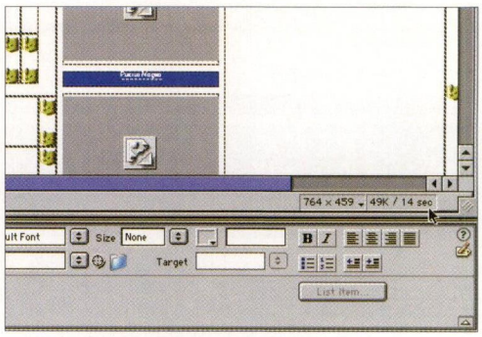
13 CHECK THE MANUAL

Less experienced users may want to consult the manual at this point, but note that there's a Help button on the right-hand side of the dialog box. Click on this, and you'll have a guide to the various checkbox commands at your side, so you don't inadvertently remove the wrong piece of code!



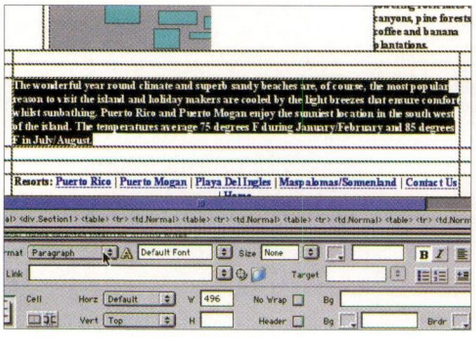
14 GET THE PROCESS UNDER WAY

When you're all set, press the OK button and Dreamweaver will get to work on scanning the entire page. It's only when it reports back, by highlighting all the areas it has uncovered, that you'll realise just how much of a mess Word has made of the original job. Press OK to proceed.



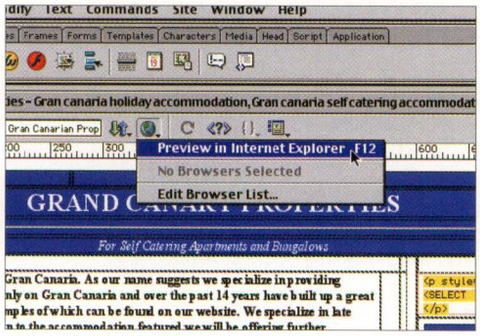
15 FAST AND EFFICIENT

The benefits of this are shown by the Information tab in the bottom right corner. After running the procedure, we reduced a page that was originally 49Kb with a loading time of 14 seconds right down to 31Kb and nine seconds. Do this to all your pages, and a site can be transformed.



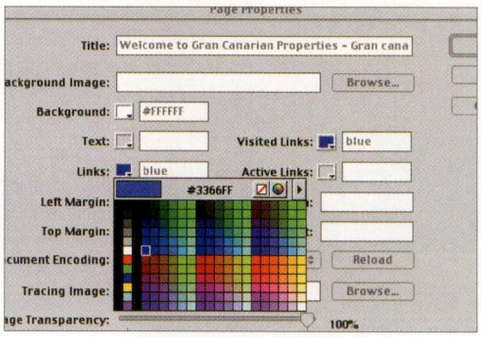
16 MAKE SOME ADJUSTMENTS

There may be areas that have come off better or worse than others, so this is where you can employ Dreamweaver's traditional tool palettes to make minor adjustments. Word can cause unpredictable problems, so anything that can be done is a bonus. Further hand coding may also be done using HTML.



17 TIME TO CHECK IT OUT

The only sure-fire way of testing whether or not the experiment has been successful is to check the file in a Web browser using the Tool palette along the top of the document. First check for the efficiency of the overall page, and then take a good look to see if everything is behaving as it should.



18 TOP TROUBLESHOOTING TIPS

This is a good time to look out for key Word bugs – like the fact that you need to put in a hexadecimal number for the page background, otherwise it'll come out grey. You can key this in when selecting the first dialog window. Use the Dreamweaver Color palette if you're not sure of the number.

User~Friendly Hosting

Everyday **£9.99** per mth

.html, .cgi, .pl | 15 POP3 & Webmail Accounts | Frontpage 2002, CGI, SSI. 100MB Fast web space | Password Protected Pages

PHP **£14.99** per mth

.html, .php, .php4 | 15 POP3 & Webmail Accounts | PHP4, ODBC, PHPMyAdmin SSI. 100MB Fast web space | MySQL Database

ASP **£14.99** per mth

.html, .asp | 15 POP3 & Webmail Accounts | ASPEmail, ASPUpload, ASPEasyZip. 100MB Fast web space | Access Database

ASP.NET **£19.99** per mth

.html, .asp, .aspx | 15 POP3 & Webmail Accounts | .NET Framework v1.1, ServerObjects, 100MB Fast web space | Access Database

Streaming **£14.99** per mth

.rm, .wmv, .mp3 | Helix Powered, Windows & Real Media | Flash, Broadcast Support | 100MB Fast web space | 2GB Data Traffic per month

Cold Fusion **£24.99** per mth

.html, .cfm | 15 POP3 & Webmail Accounts | MX 6.1 Support, Custom Tag ready. 100MB Fast web space | Access & MySQL Database

Java+ **£29.99** per mth

.html, .jsp, servlets | 15 POP3 & Webmail Accounts | JSP, Shared Tomcat 4 Instance. 100MB Fast web space | MySQL Database

Java++ **£39.99** per mth

.html, .jsp, .do, servlets | 15 POP3 & Webmail Accounts | Private JVM, Tomcat Manager, Struts. 100MB Fast web space | MySQL Database
Private Tomcat Instance now available

- **Free expert technical support by telephone and email**
- **Unlimited email aliases & Graphical visitor statistics**
- **Antivirus & Antispam email support**
- **MySQL v4, MSSQL2000, Oracle 9i Databases available**

Ripe NCC Member

All prices exclude UK VAT.

2020 media

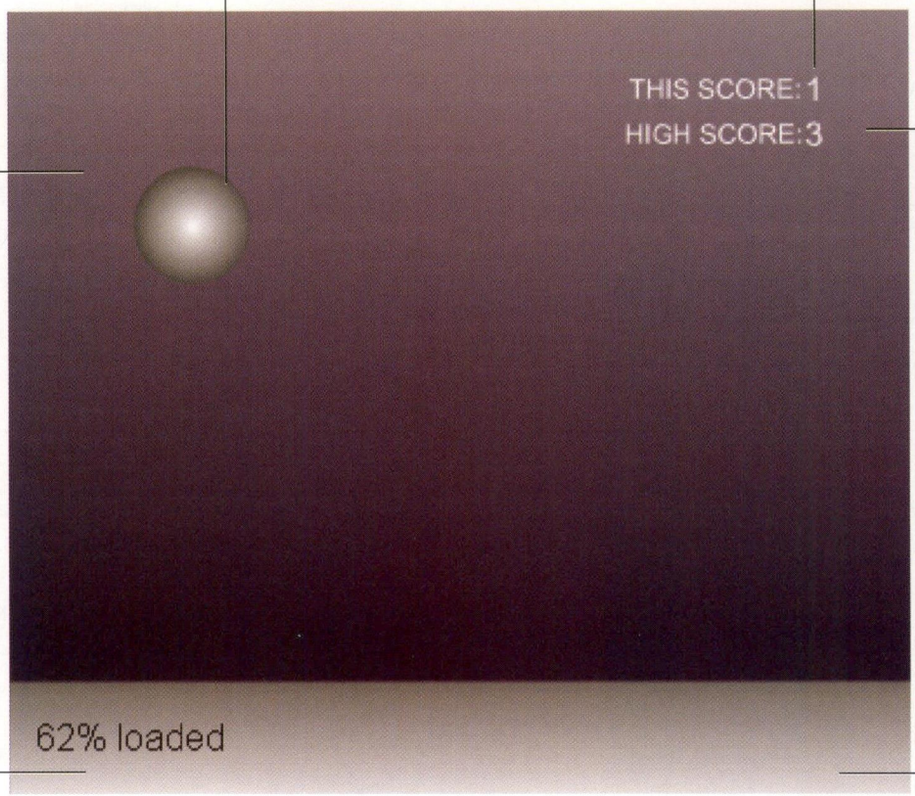
www.2020Media.com

0845 116 7453 11 Bear Street, London WC2H 7AS

TUTORIAL: FLASH MX 2004
CREATE AN INTERACTIVE PRELOADER FOR YOUR SITE

YOUR EXPERT: LEE GROOMBRIDGE

Lee Groombridge is the Digital Projects Manager at Highbury Entertainment Limited. Among other things, he manages the production of the cover discs for the full portfolio of magazine titles created by the company. His impressive client list before joining us includes household names such as NTL, Tiscali and ITV's *Pop Idols*. With more projects behind him than you've had hot dinners, you can see he really does know his stuff!



Keep the ball in the air
When you click the ball with your mouse cursor, it will shoot into the air. The idea is to keep it from hitting the floor again

This Score
The This Score field on the stage indicates the number of times the user has clicked on the ball without it hitting the floor

No border
There is no actual border around this project. Where the graphics stop, the background colour of black will begin

High Score
The High Score records the highest number of clicks the user has in this session while the main movie is loading

Percentage Loading
A Percentage Loading text field is added to the movie, so firstly the user knows how long is left to load, and also how much time they have to play the game

Floor
The 'floor', which is the point of reference for the ball to bounce, is indicated by a grey box on the stage

THE BRIEF

TUTORIAL OBJECTIVE
Create an interactive preloader by incorporating a game

SKILL LEVEL

TIME REQUIRED
30 minutes

ON THE DISC
Flash/Tutorials:
kickup_game.swf
preloader_start.fla
kickup_preloader_finished.fla

CREATE AN INTERACTIVE PRELOADER FOR YOUR SITE

Discover how by using Flash MX 2004 you can create an interactive preloader for your Web site

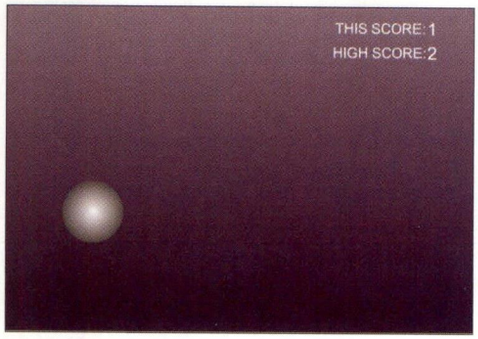
What's the most annoying thing about the Net? It has to be waiting for sites to load. But thanks to the wonders of Flash, you can at least let the user know how long they have to wait. In this tutorial we go one step further, and create a little game to keep users occupied while the site is loading.

This idea proves the truth of the old saying 'time flies when you're having fun!'. If your user is happily playing with the interactive preloader, the site will seem to load faster than it actually does.

In this tutorial the game code is supplied, as it's the theory and method behind incorporating the preloading code that's important. If you want to use this tutorial for a game of your own, remember that viewing the site is the user's main objective. They don't want to wait for the preloader game to preload, so keep it small!

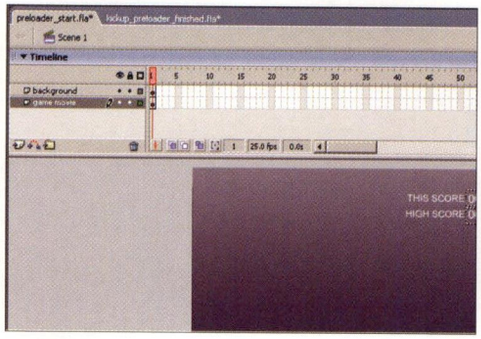
You will need moderate Flash knowledge to complete this tutorial, including how to apply ActionScripting to frames and how to use frame labels. ■

TUTORIAL: FLASH MX 2004
CREATE AN INTERACTIVE PRELOADER FOR YOUR SITE



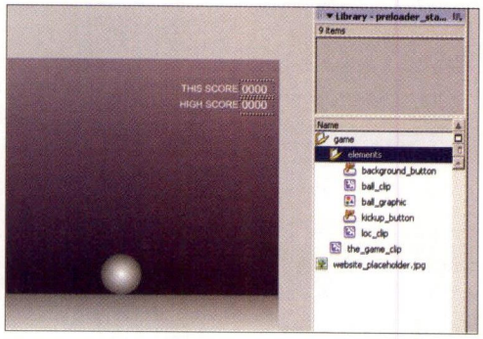
1 PLAY THE GAME

The first step of this tutorial is your time to have a bit of fun. If you open the file on the cover disc called 'kick-up.swf', you can play the game that you're about to make into a preloader.



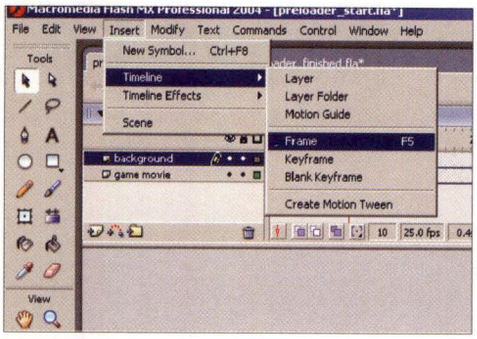
2 OPEN FLASH FILE

Now that you've played for a while, it's time to get back to work! The first step in making this preloader is to open the Flash file that contains the source code for the game. This file is called 'preloader_start'.



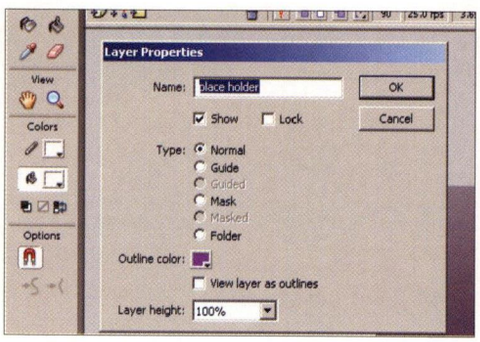
3 SEE WHAT YOU HAVE

Once you have this open, have a little look around. You'll see two layers: 'Background' and 'Game Movie'. In the library you will see a folder that contains all the elements for the game and also a place_holder.jpeg.



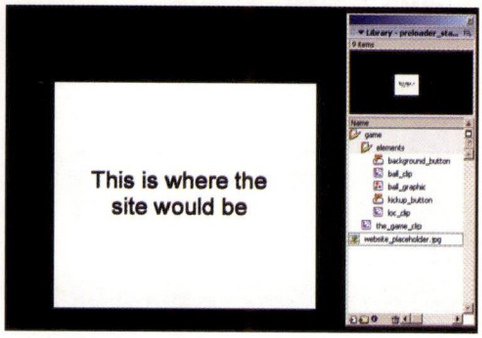
4 ADD FRAMES

To start this preloader, you'll need to add frames to the timeline so that there are 90 active frames. This is done by selecting frame 1 on the timeline and then either pressing F5 or selecting Insert>Timeline>Frame.



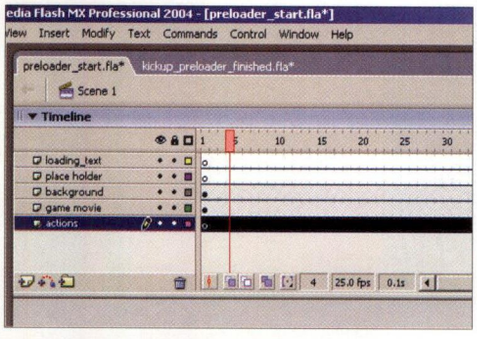
5 IMITATE SITE

In order to imitate the loading of a site later in the tutorial, you need to add some content to the Flash movie to give it some size. This content is the placeholder JPEG. To add this, first create a new layer and call it 'Placeholder'.



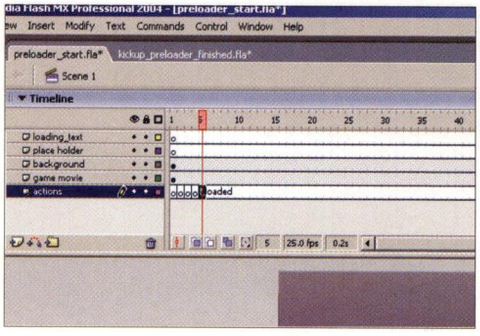
6 DRAG ON THE PLACEHOLDER

Now you have this layer created, add a blank keyframe on each of the three layers on frame 90. On the Placeholder layer drag the place_holder.jpeg from the library into the 90th frame. This will imitate the site file size and also where the site would begin.



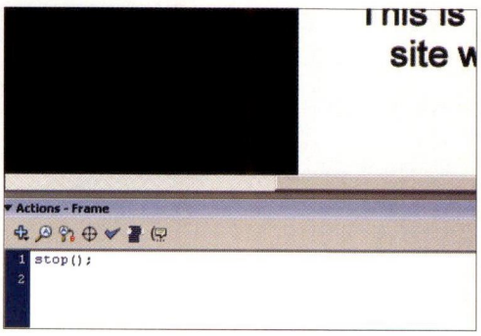
7 ADD MORE LAYERS

You can now begin with the fun stuff! Add two more layers to the timeline. Name these 'Actions' and 'Loading Text'. Reorder these layers so that the Loading Text layer is on top of all the layers and the Actions layer is beneath all the others.



8 SET UP THE KEYFRAMES

In this tutorial you will need to set up five keyframes on the Actions layer. Place these on the following frames and name them: frame 2 – 'Start', frame 3 – 'still_loading', frame 4 – 'loading', frame 5 – 'loaded', frame 90 – 'site'.



9 CODE ON LAST FRAME

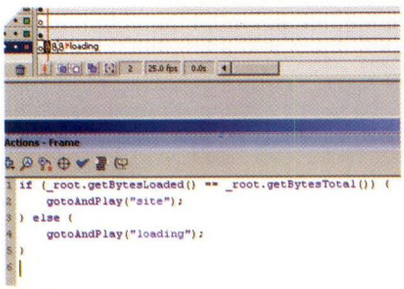
The Site keyframe on the 90th frame is there, so you can place a Stop action to the frame. To do this open the Actions panel by selecting, Windows> Development Panels>Action. Now enter this code into the window: stop();

TUTORIAL: FLASH MX 2004
CREATE AN INTERACTIVE PRELOADER FOR YOUR SITE

TECHNIQUE

THE ACTIONSCRIPT IN FULL

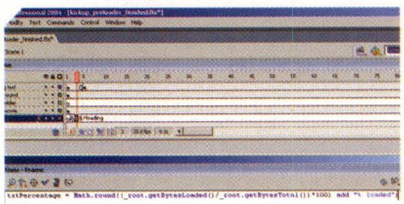
Below is the full code for each of the three frames that make up this preloader. By following the tutorial closely and making sure everything is named correctly, you should have no problems creating the little interactive preloader.



FRAME 2 – START

The code that will jump to the site if it has already loaded:

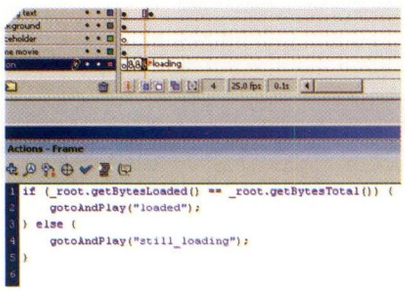
```
if (_root.getBytesLoaded() == _root.getBytesTotal()) {
        gotoAndPlay("site");
} else {
        gotoAndPlay("loading");
}
```



FRAME 3 – STILL_LOADING

The code that sets the text the dynamic 'txtpercentage' text field on the loading text layer:

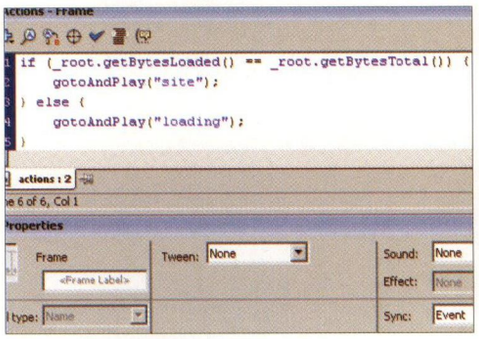
```
txtPercentage =
Math.round((_root.getBytesLoaded()/_root.getBytesTo
tal())*100) add "% loaded";
```



FRAME 4 – LOADING

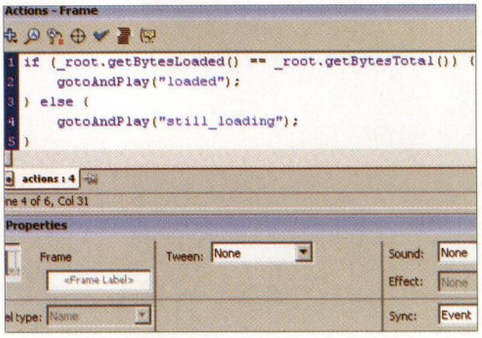
The code that loops the preloader if the site has not completely loaded:

```
if (_root.getBytesLoaded() == _root.getBytesTotal()) {
        gotoAndPlay("loaded");
} else {
        gotoAndPlay("still_loading");
}
```



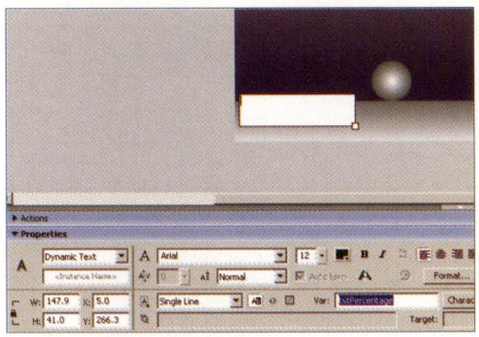
10 FRAME 2 CODE

The next bit of code that should go onto frame 2 includes a part that will jump straight to the Site frame if the movie has already been loaded. Add this code to frame 2: if(_root.getBytesLoaded()==_root.getBytesTotal())¬gotoAndPlay("site");¬} else {¬gotoAndPlay("loading");¬}



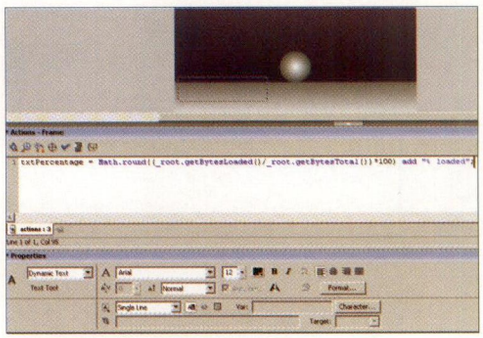
11 FRAME 4 CODE

Go straight to frame 4 and add the following code to complete the loop for the movie to be able to preload: if(_root.getBytesLoaded()==_root.getBytesTotal())¬{¬gotoAndPlay("loaded");¬}else{¬gotoAndPlay("still_loading");¬}



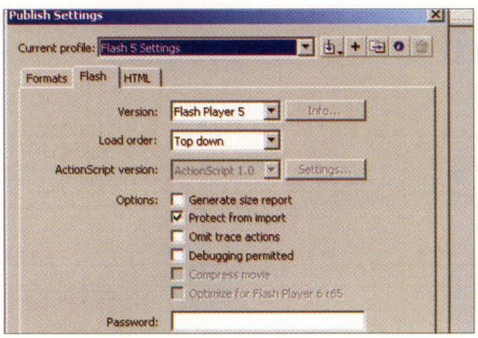
13 TEXT PROPERTIES

In order for the text to work, this text field needs to be set to 'Dynamic'. To do this, open up the Properties panel (Control & F3) Windows>Properties. Set the Text Type to Dynamic Text and enter 'txtPercentage' in the Var: field.



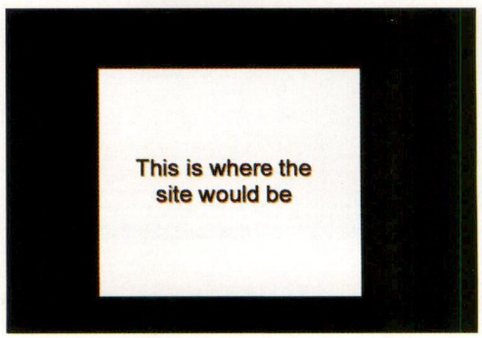
14 ADD CODE TO FRAME 3

Now this is complete, you need to add the code to frame 3 to make this field actually work. This is done by putting the following code into the Still_loading frame: txtPercentage=Math.round((_root.getBytesLoaded()/_root.getBytesTotal())*100)add"%loaded";



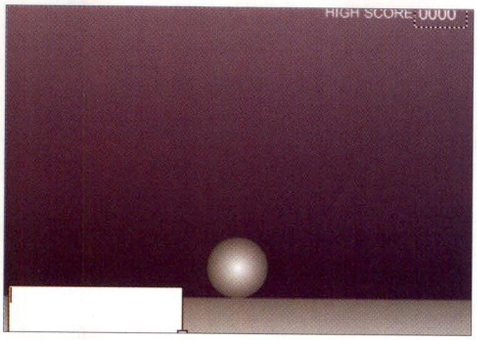
16 TEST MOVIE

You're now ready to test the preloader. There are a few important things to do first. Go to File>Publish Settings. Make sure the version is set to 'Flash 5' – the preloader won't work otherwise. Also make sure the site has a Load Order of 'Top Down'. Now click OK.



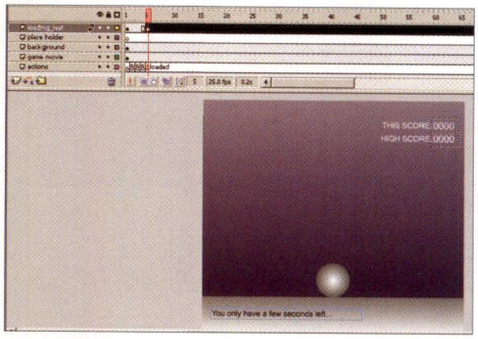
17 LOADED!

You are now ready to test. Go to Control>Test Movie. You'll see that your file immediately loads in the Flash authoring environment. Your site should have jumped straight to the placeholder JPEG.



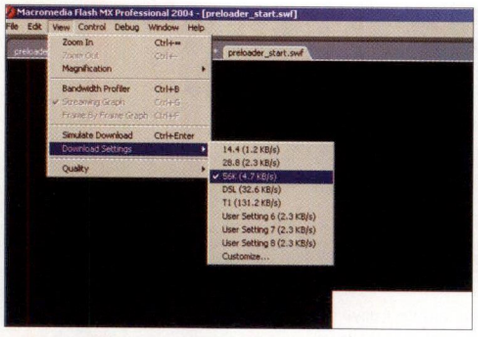
12 ADD PERCENTAGE TEXT

The next step is to add the Percentage Loaded text field to the movie. To do this, select the Loading Text layer and choose the Text tool from the Tools palette. Click and drag a text box onto the stage above the Floor graphic.



15 ADD A KEYFRAME – CHANGE THE TEXT

Once the site is loaded, you want to give the user some warning that the game will stop, or they could be annoyed before they even start to look at your site! Do this by adding a keyframe to frame 5 of the Loading Text layer. Now change the text to 'You only have a few seconds left...'.



18 VIEW SIMULATION

In order to simulate a modem speed, there's a function in this previewer called 'Simulate Download'. Before you select this from the menu, you can set your speed of choice. Go to View>Download Settings>56K. Now select View>Simulate Download.

IN DETAIL: THE SWF FILE WINDOW

Whenever you test a movie from the Flash authoring environment, you'll be opening the SWF File window...

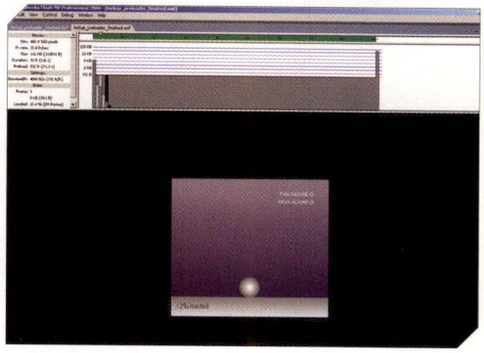
When you begin to use Flash, usually one of the first things you learn about is the SWF File window. It's the quickest and easiest way to preview the Flash movies you're working on. Even with this in mind, most Flash designers and developers leave it a little longer to search into the depths of the features inside this part of the Flash authoring package.

The first feature we'll discuss is the Simulate Download option. This does exactly what it says on the tin – it tests how quickly your movie streams on the Net. From the Download Settings menu option from the View menu, you can select different rates of speed, ranging from 14Kb through to T1. You also have the option to customise your own speed from the Customize menu option.

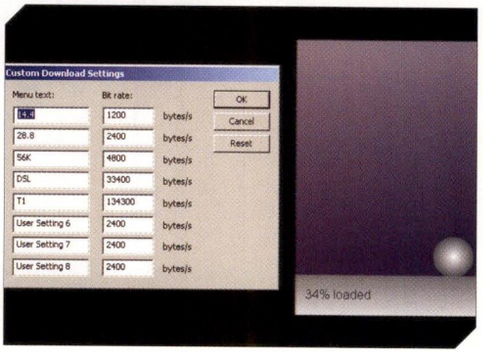
The next useful feature is the Bandwidth Profiler – again available from the View menu. This is a clever function that once selected creates a graph above the SWF that you're previewing. It displays each and every frame of your site in a bar chart type of graph, each bar representing the size in kilobytes that the site possesses. If turned on along with the Simulate Download option, the Bandwidth Profiler will show you how your site loads, and when you get to certain frames, whether those frames will be loaded before the timeline playhead arrives there.

Another good use for the Bandwidth Profiler is for highlighting large content on certain frames, such as JPEGS, that are making the overall site larger in size.

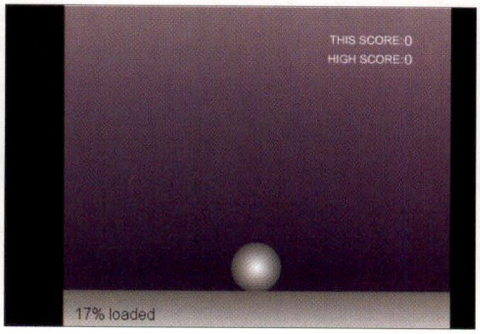
So as you can see just by touching on the features within this SWF File window, it's well worth giving it a thorough look. ■



■ Despite the fact that we all use the preview window, few of us bother to learn its advanced functions, like the Simulate Download tool

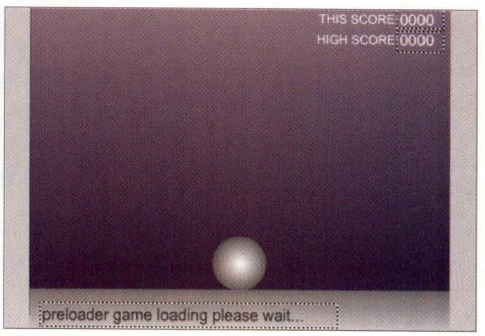


■ In the Custom Download Settings window, you can select different rates of speed to help simulate the modems your visitors will use



19 SEE IT WORK

What you should now see is your game with the percentage text at the bottom of the stage increasing steadily. The preloader is now complete, so have a play until the loader gets to 100% – and then you should have a little warning stating 'You have a few seconds left to play...'.



20 ALL FINISHED

If for any reason the preloader isn't working correctly, there's a file on the disc called 'kickup_preloader_finished.fla'. Simply open this and preview it to see what you should have ended up with. You can then try this theory with another loading game!

TUTORIAL: FLASH MX 2004
CREATE AN INTERACTIVE PRODUCT DEMO

YOUR EXPERT: ROBERT FIREBAUGH

Robert is cofounder of Electrotank Inc, an online Flash gaming company, and founder of Vectorkid.com, a Flash graphics resource site. He is also author of *Illustrating with Macromedia Flash MX 2004*. This comprehensive book provides readers with a complete process for creating vector illustrations in Flash, using step-by-step tutorials in many projects ranging from design through to animation and games.

Drawing tools
These basic drawing tools have much potential. This article reviews several techniques which will make you more efficient in creating graphics with Flash. Access menu items: Window>Tools

Layers
Use layers to organise your graphics. Separating fills from detail graphics will save time when editing. Access menu items: Insert>Timeline>Layer

Unlock Flash's potential
Learning the techniques in this tutorial plus the basics of Flash's drawing tools will help you unlock its true potential as a vector graphics program

Keyboard Shortcuts
The Keyboard Shortcuts panel sets up keyboard commands. Memorise the Drawing Tools commands. Access menu items: Edit>Keyboard Shortcuts

Color Mixer
The Color Mixer is very important when it comes to colouring your graphics. This is where you mix all your gradient fills and line colours. Access menu items: Window>Design Panels>Color Mixer

Properties panel
The Properties panel will give you access to certain Drawing Tool settings for the Line tool and Text tool not found anywhere else. Access menu items: Window>Properties

THE BRIEF

TUTORIAL OBJECTIVE
Illustrate a photorealistic mobile phone with Flash

SKILL LEVEL

TIME REQUIRED
Three hours

ON THE DISC
Flash/Tutorials:
cellphone.fla
phone_jpg.jpg
phone_swf.swf

PART ONE

CREATE AN INTERACTIVE PRODUCT DEMO

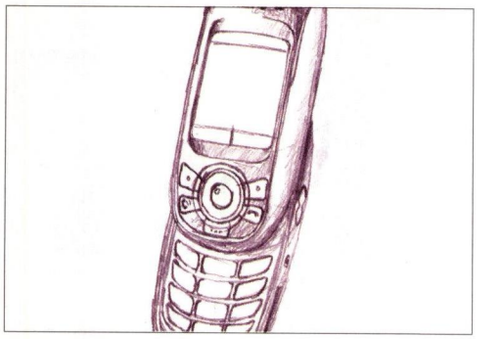
Illustrate your product with Flash to achieve a photorealistic image quality with a small file size

When it comes to marketing your product, using just an image won't cut it any more. Nowadays, you can't go anywhere online without running into Flash content.

There's a reason companies choose Flash graphics to show off their products. Illustrating graphics with Flash in most cases gives you a smaller file size than using raster graphics. Vector graphics are flexible in that they can be scaled up, and you won't lose image quality; raster graphics will get pixelated. With ActionScript you can bring your graphics alive by making them interactive. See for yourself the difference that vector graphics created with Flash can make, by comparing file sizes between the 12.7Kb SWF file and 53.4Kb JPG file on the cover CD. It is possible to compress the JPG more, but we'll lose image quality once it's scaled up.

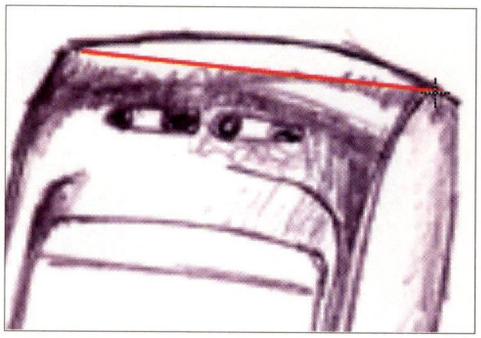
This is the first of two tutorials. This time we'll cover the artistic side, and next issue we'll explore the programming. Not all detail is covered in the brief explanations, so please refer to the CD. ■

TUTORIAL: FLASH MX 2004
CREATE AN INTERACTIVE PRODUCT DEMO



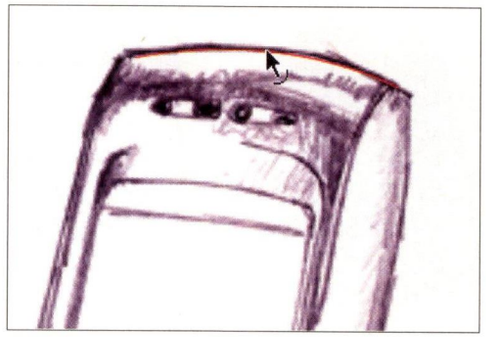
1 DIFFERENT APPROACHES

There are a few ways to get started. If you have an image of the product, to save time we recommend you import it into Flash and trace it. In our case, we'll make up our own phone device. Sketch the item in as much detail as you can; we'll now scan it, import it into Flash and trace the sketch.



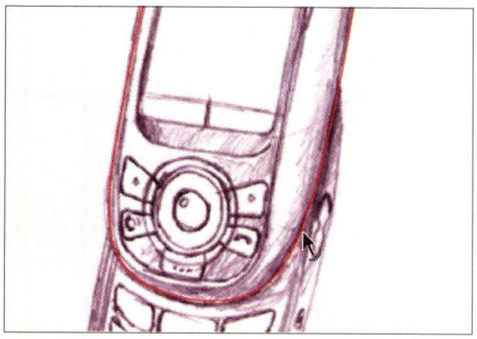
2 ILLUSTRATING OUTLINES

Make sure your photo or sketch is locked on its own layer. The graphics you'll draw should be placed on a new layer above the previous one. When tracing, use the Line tool to plot lines and the Selection tool to manipulate their curve. This gives the most optimised, clean placement of the outlines.



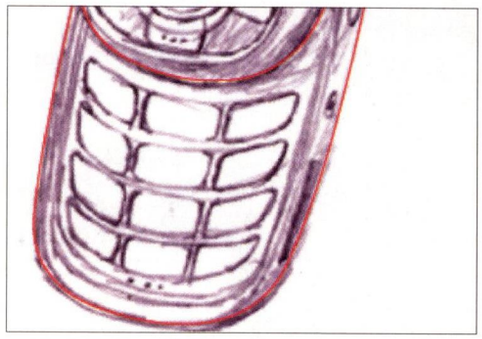
3 SELECTION TOOL

Once the line is plotted out, switch to the Selection tool. Hold the mouse over the centre of the line, and a curved line appears next to your cursor arrow. This means that once you click and drag you'll be manipulating the curved part of the line. A right-angle line appears if you're about to edit a vector point.



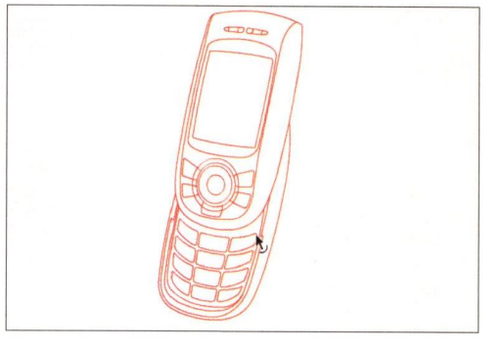
4 PLOTTING WITH THE LINE TOOL

Now you can simply continue with the painstaking process of plotting your lines using the Line tool, as well as editing the placement and curve of your lines with the Selection tool.



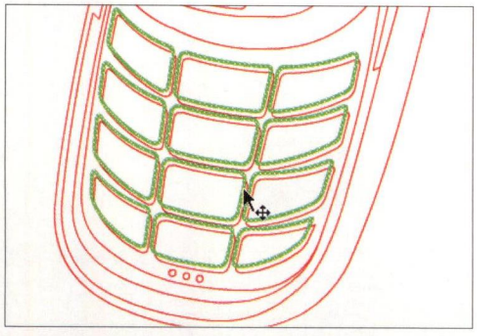
5 OUTLINING THE BASIC SHAPE

When you get to the bottom part of your mobile phone, complete the shape by continuing to use the techniques given in the previous steps, using the Line and Selection tools.



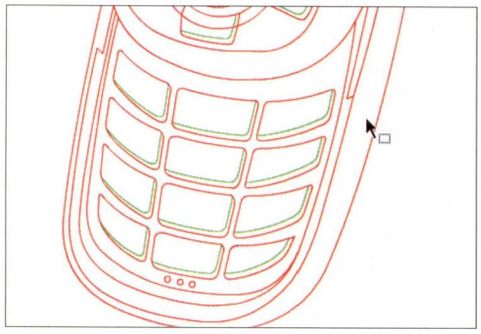
6 OUTLINING THE BUTTONS

Now it's time to trace the buttons and the display area. Feel free to hide the layer which contains your photo or sketch that you use in order to see if your lines are precise.



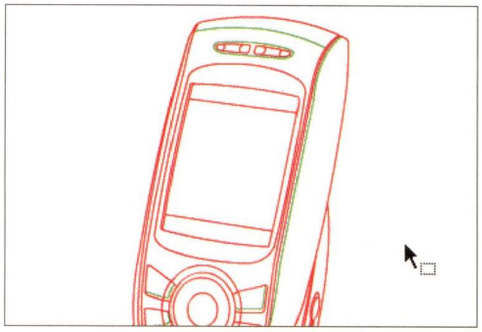
7 COPY AND PASTE IN PLACE

Creating outlines to form a place to apply highlight fills is quick and easy. To add highlight areas for the buttons, use the Selection tool and select all buttons. Go to Edit>Copy and Edit>Paste in Place. With the Selection tool still active, use the arrow keys to reposition the new outlines slightly up and left.



8 REMOVING LINES

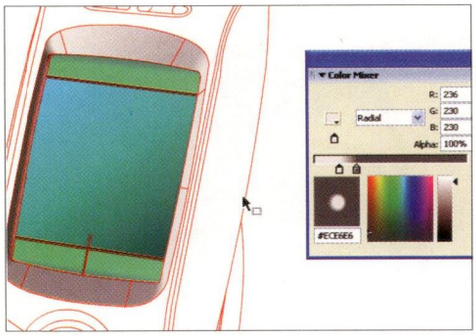
You'll notice that we've changed the colour of the new lines – this is to make them easier to select in the future. You can also use the Selection tool to select the unwanted lines, and then remove them by using the keyboard shortcut to cut: Edit>Cut.



9 CONTINUE TO DEFINE THE OBJECT

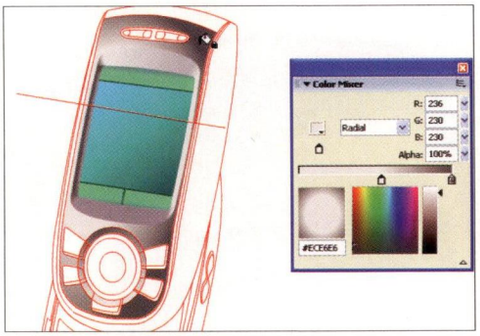
Having created your outlines and added the highlight areas, you can now make the photograph or sketch layer visible again and then continue to trace the basic contours of the object.

CREATE AN INTERACTIVE PRODUCT DEMO



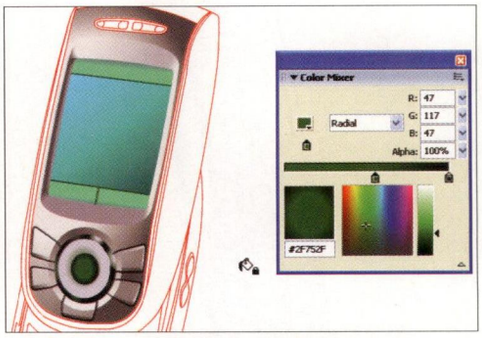
10 COLOURING DISPLAY

Switch to the Zoom and click and drag on the stage, creating a bounding box; you'll zoom into its content. Zoom into the display area of the object. Open up the Color Mixer panel: Window>Design Panels>Color Mixer. Use it to create solid and gradient fills. Use the Paint Bucket to apply a fill on the outline.



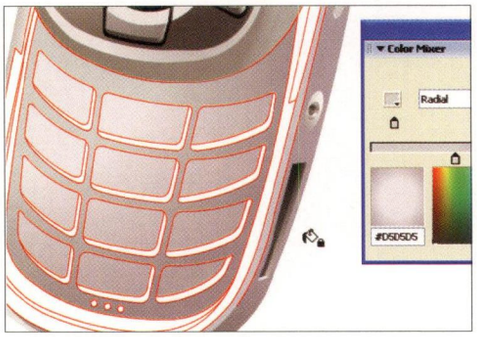
11 CREATING COMPLEX SHAPES

Connecting gradients together to form a more complex shape is a great technique to use, especially on an object that has as many curves as this cell phone. Use the Transform Fill tool to edit your gradients. When trying to connect gradients, make sure they both contain the same colour swatches.



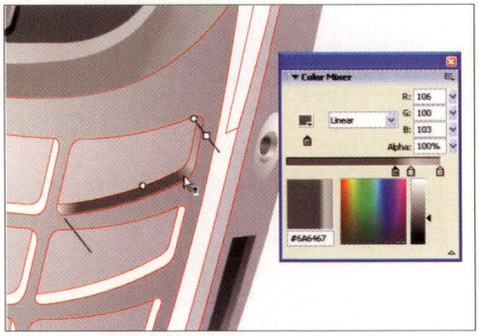
12 LINEAR AND RADIAL GRADIENTS

With simple linear gradients, you can achieve metal looks and even plastic. Notice how linear gradients are used for the angular buttons – and for the centre round button, radial gradients work best.



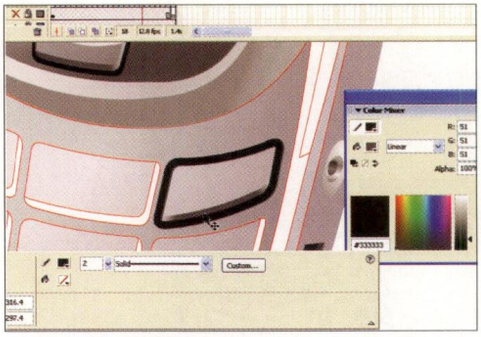
14 DEFINING THE KEYPAD

Now switch to the Zoom tool and focus on the buttons. Use Flash's Color Mixer and that old favourite, the Paint Bucket tool, in order to apply gradient fills in this area.



15 HIGHLIGHTS IN THE BUTTON

Still using the Color Mixer, create a darker, more contrasting linear gradient and then apply it to the underside of one of the buttons. Experiment until you are happy with the colours you've chosen.

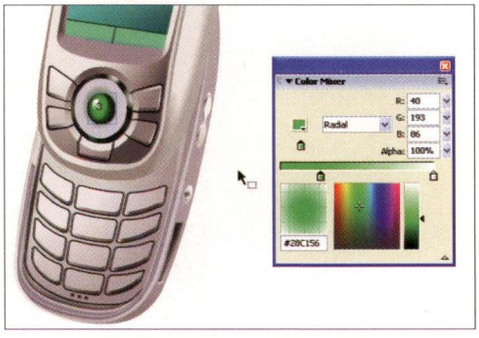


16 MODIFY THE STROKE

Now delete the inner red outline. Having done that, use your Selection tool again to select the outer red outline, and then change the colour to a dark grey and the line stroke height to '2'.

18 FINISH THE BUTTONS

Repeat steps 16 and 17 to do the rest of the buttons on the lower half of the cell phone. Now select them one by one and scale each down by 96%. To do that, select one of the buttons and open the Rotate and Scale panel: Modify>Transform>Rotate and Scale.

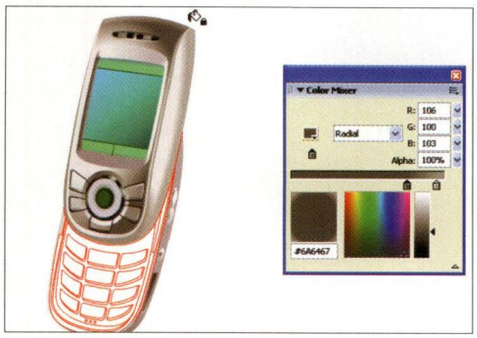


19 ACHIEVING THAT PLASTIC LOOK

Colour in the rest of the outlines using grey gradient fills. To make the centre button look plastic, we'll add two gradients, stacking one on the other by grouping them. The bottom green graphic is a radial gradient. The top white glare is a linear one with two swatches: #FFFFFF 100% Alpha and #FFFFFF 0% Alpha.

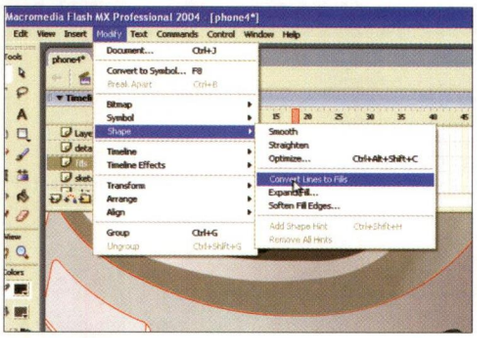
20 ADDING TEXT

Use the keyboard shortcut to switch to the Text tool and type out the numbers and text found on the display. Once typed out, use the Free Transform tool to modify the scaling and skew of the text fields to match the surface it's on.



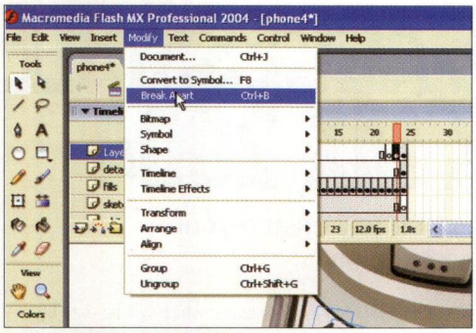
13 SOFT AND SHINY LOOK

Using the same shades of grey, we start to define the sides of the cell phone. Notice that on the top side we use a soft gradient, compared to the small button on the bottom side, where a contrasting linear gradient is used to give a shiny look.



17 CONVERTING LINES TO FILLS

Group the fills in the centre by selecting them, using Modify>Group. Select the dark grey outline, and we'll convert it to a fill by going via Modify>Shape> Convert Line to Fills.



21 BREAK APART THE TEXT

Using the Zoom tool to return to 100% magnification, you may notice that the text looks a bit pixelated. To correct this, break down the text field, turning the text into vector fills. Access this command under: Modify>Break Apart.

IN DETAIL: ACHIEVING COMPLEX SHAPES

By layering Alpha gradients you can replicate real-world highlights and shadows

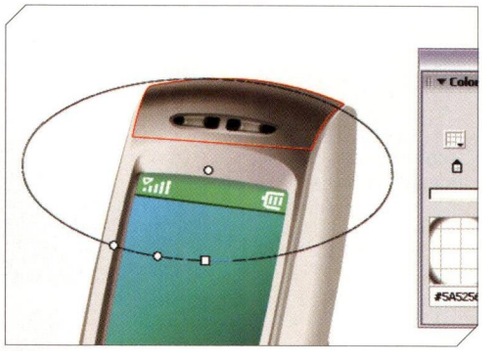
Quite a few shaped gradients can be achieved with linear and radial gradients alone, but sometimes to depict a realistic object a more complex shape is required.

One approach that's very effective is layering multiple Alpha gradients. Alpha is a setting found in the Color Mixer panel, and each colour swatch has this setting. By lowering the percentage of Alpha, the colour swatch will become transparent. A colour swatch with 0 per cent Alpha means it's totally transparent, whereas 100 per cent Alpha means the swatch is opaque. Percentages in between will give you different strengths of transparency.

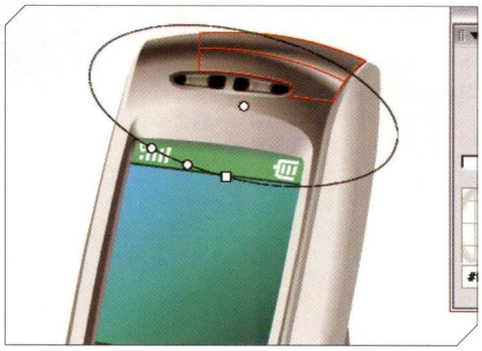
The top of the mobile phone has one of the most complicated gradient shapes to create the illusion that two light sources are hitting it. In the first screenshot you can see the dark grey arch, which is done with a radial gradient layered on top of the already existing gradient fills. The settings of this radial gradient are: first colour swatch #5A5256 0% Alpha, second #5A5256 100% Alpha, third #5A5256 100% Alpha and fourth #5A5256 0% Alpha.

On a new layer, add the last source of light coming from the top right, as shown in the second screenshot. Notice the red outlines, showing that we actually have two gradient fills placed next to each other to shape a pointy, sharp-looking glare. The settings of this radial gradient are as follows: first colour swatch #D5D5D5 0% Alpha, second #DADADA 100% Alpha, third #D7D7D7 100% Alpha and fourth #D7D7D7 0% Alpha.

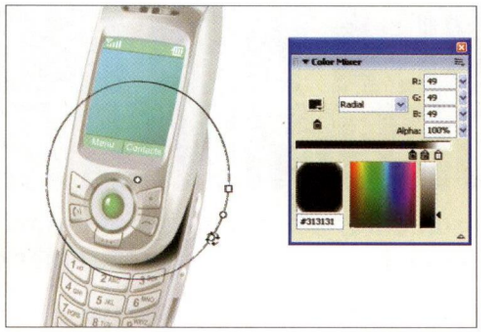
With this second layer added for a total of three layers of gradients, you can see how highlights and shadows can be replicated quite easily. ■



■ Layer one of a radial gradient, adding depth to the top of the mobile phone



■ Layer two of a combination of two radial gradients placed together to form a more organic shape



22 ADDING SHADOWS

To give the cell phone more depth we'll add a radial gradient to the bottom part of the top half, and then group this graphic so it won't interfere with the others. Position the gradient as shown. The settings are: first swatch #313131 100% Alpha, second #313131 80% Alpha, third #313131 0% Alpha.

23 FINISHED ILLUSTRATION

The approach and techniques in this tutorial aren't limited to this object. When working on your own projects, see where you can optimise graphics and how small you can get the file size. Use keyboard shortcuts, and practise with the Line and Arrow tools and Color Mixer to outline/colour your graphics.

TUTORIAL: ACCESSIBILITY
MAKE A WEB PAGE ACCESSIBLE IN DREAMWEAVER MX 2004

YOUR EXPERT: MARK SHUFFLEBOTTOM

Mark teaches on the BA Hons Interactive Media course at Bournemouth University, and has been a regular contributor to *Web Designer* for many issues. Although Mark comes from a print background – he's a former designer of *Practical Internet* – he is now much more involved in Web design technology, and specialises in everything from Flash through to 3D graphics and PHP.

Titles and shortcuts
Add titles and access key shortcuts to Flash animations

Tags
Add caption and summary tags to tables to make them easier for screenreaders

Label tags
Make forms accessible by using the label tags for form elements

Alt tags
Make sure all images have alt tags, which have more use than just describing the image in text

Long description
Use the long description if an image requires it

Tab index
Use a tab index so that users can tab between content and the form becomes accessible

THE BRIEF

TUTORIAL OBJECTIVE
Create accessible content for your Web page

SKILL LEVEL

TIME REQUIRED
20 minutes

ON THE DISC
Accessibility/ Tutorial files:
start.html
finished.html
test.swf
Templates [folder]
Images [folder]

MAKE A WEB PAGE ACCESSIBLE IN DREAMWEAVER MX 2004

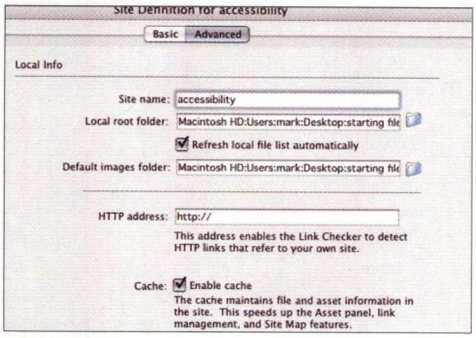
Accessible content is a hot issue. Learn techniques that will ensure your pages are not left in the lurch when it comes to accessibility

You've probably heard the term 'accessibility', but may not be entirely sure what it means. To make your Web page accessible is to make certain that people with visual, auditory or other disabilities can access its content. Fortunately, Dreamweaver has a whole bunch of inbuilt prompts to ensure your content has the right scripts to make it accessible to everyone.

The extra tags that get added to the page will actually enrich it, making it easier to navigate and understand what's there. The easiest way is to add 'alt' tags to images, which will be read by a screenreader for the visually impaired. Obviously it goes beyond this, as a long description can also be added – particularly useful for a technical illustration displayed as a graphic. Tables can be given captions and a summary inserted; form elements can have labels and a tab order added so content can be navigated by keyboard. Even Flash can have a title added that will make it accessible. So let's find out how to incorporate these tags into your site. ■

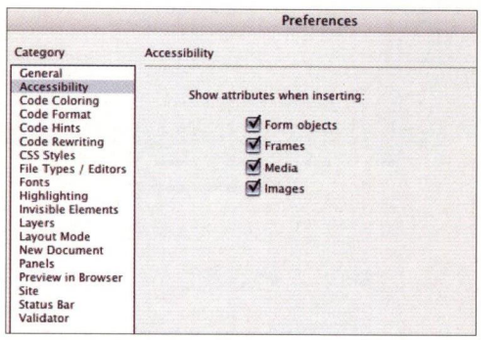
TUTORIAL: ACCESSIBILITY

MAKE A WEB PAGE ACCESSIBLE IN DREAMWEAVER MX 2004



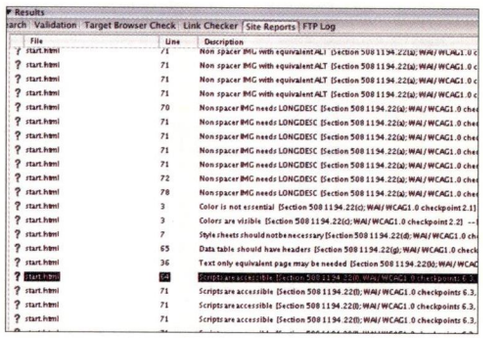
1 START THE PROJECT

Copy the Starting Files folder from the cover CD to your computer. Open Dreamweaver, and from the Create New category choose Dreamweaver Site. Fill in the details as shown above, browsing to the folder you just copied as the local root folder.



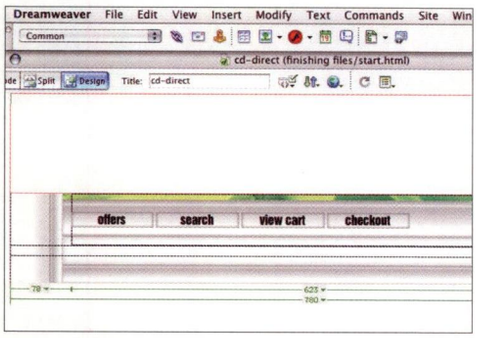
2 SET PREFERENCES

Make sure you browse for the Images folder in the site folder, then click OK when done and return to Dreamweaver. Go to the Edit menu and choose Preferences. In the pop-up window select Accessibility and turn all the options on.



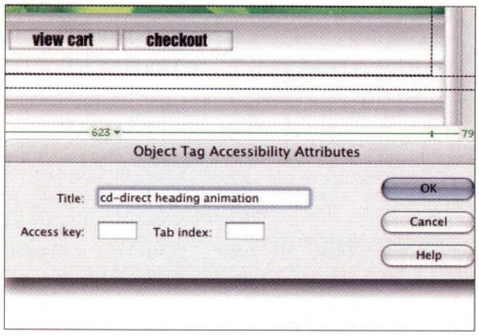
3 OPEN THE PAGE

Open the start.html page from the folder you copied onto your computer. This page can be checked to see what state it's in as far as accessibility goes. Go to File>Check Page>Check Accessibility. In the pop-up window you'll see a list.



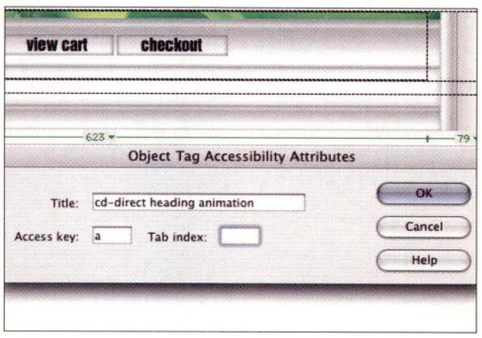
4 LOOKS BAD

The report appears to show a lot of errors, but it isn't as bad as it seems. There are only three errors with some question marks. Some images need alt tags, which will be sorted out. Let's start fixing these. Close the window and place your cursor in the first cell.



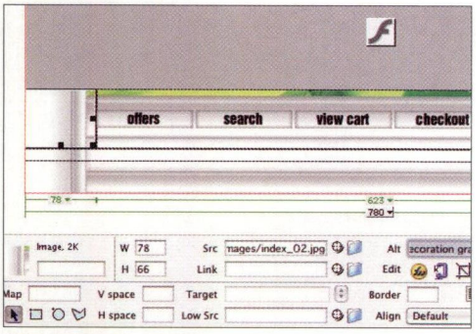
5 INSERT FLASH

From the Insert panel click the Flash icon to insert some Flash onto this page. If you already have Flash on a page, it's best to remove it and reimport once the accessibility functions have been turned on. Browse for test.swf and fill in the title as shown.



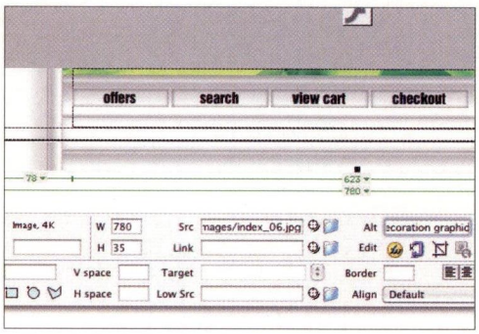
6 ACCESS KEY

You'll notice that you are prompted for an access key. Enter a keyboard shortcut here that the user could select to access the Flash animation. A tab order is also requested, but there is no function in the animation, so leave this blank.



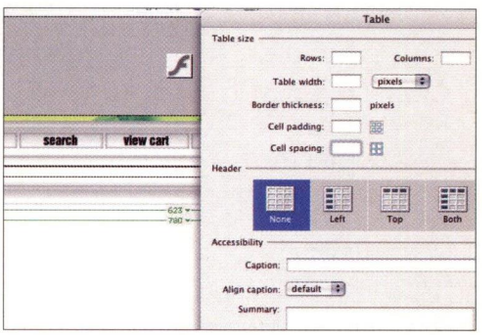
7 ALT TAGS

You could add a tab order to buttons so that they can be cycled through with the Tab key. Click OK. Select the first cell in the second column and add the words 'Page decoration graphic' to the alt tag in the Property Inspector.



8 REPEAT ALT TAG

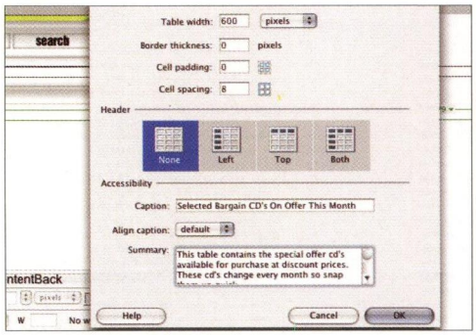
Select the cell in the second row on the far right and add the same alt tag, then do the same for the bottom cell. This now means that all images have alt tags, as the rollover buttons already have alt tags assigned to them. Alt tags will also display in some browsers while content is downloading.



9 ADD A TABLE

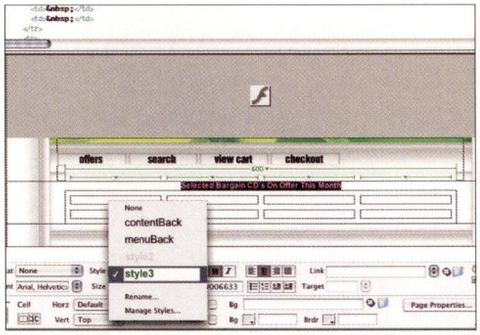
Place the cursor in the cell below the buttons. This cell should stretch across the whole column. Press the Centre Text button on the Properties palette, and click the Insert Table button from the Insert panel. This will now appear centrally on the page.

TUTORIAL: ACCESSIBILITY
MAKE A WEB PAGE ACCESSIBLE IN DREAMWEAVER MX 2004



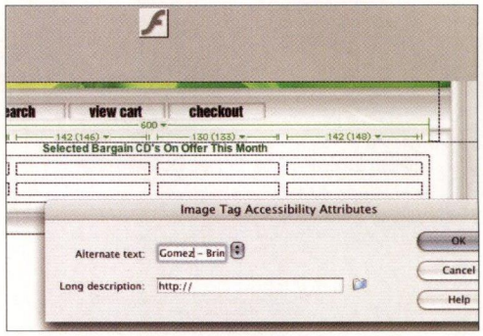
10 FILL IN THE TABLE

The top elements of the Table box should be very familiar to you. However, you might not be quite so familiar with the bottom Accessibility options. The caption provides a visible title to the table, and a summary is useful for describing the table contents. Fill in as shown above.



11 APPLY A STYLE

If you take a look at the code, you'll see how your summary and caption have been incorporated into the table code. You may think the caption looks a bit out of place. Highlight the text, and from the Properties palette use the Style drop menu to add Style 3.

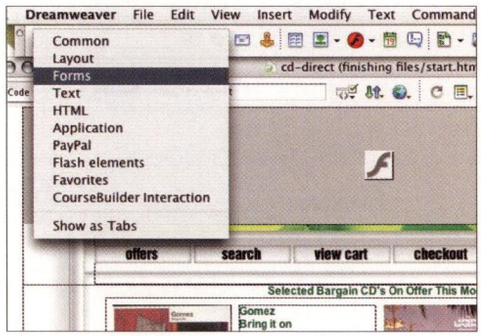


12 ADD COLUMN WIDTHS

Select the first column and change the width to 130, the second to 150, the third to 130 and the last to 150 in the Properties palette. Place your cursor in the first cell and add an image from the Insert panel. Insert so-bringiton.jpg and fill out the alt tag.

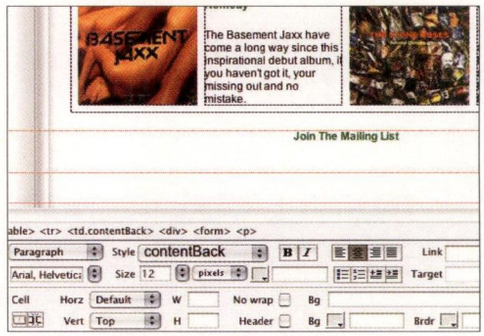
13 LONG DESCRIPTION

The Long Description tag can link to another text file containing a long description which might be too bulky to include in here alone. Add the remaining content as shown in the screenshot to the Web page so that the table is complete.



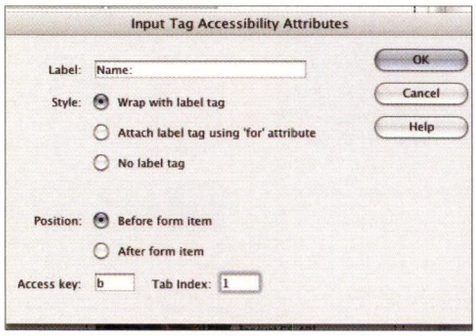
14 ADD A FORM

Place your cursor to the right of the accessible table that you added, and press Return. In the space below, we're going to add a form so that we can see how we can make them accessible. Choose Forms from the drop menu on the Insert panel.



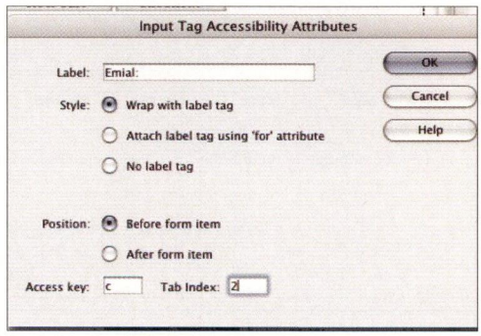
15 ADD TEXT TO THE FORM

Press the Insert Form icon on the Insert panel. Your cursor should be inside the form, shown in red on the document. Type the title shown in the screenshot, then style it as Style 3 in the Properties panel. Hit Return to position the cursor on the next line.



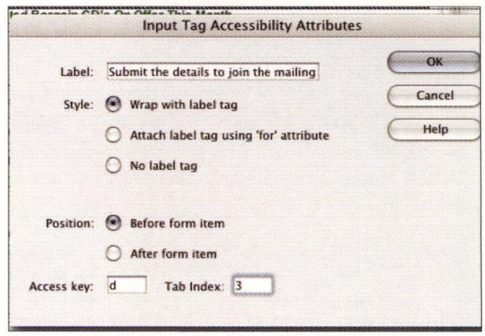
16 ADD A TEXT FIELD

From the Insert panel, click on the Text Field icon to add it to the page. You'll be prompted to add accessibility features. Copy those shown in the screenshot above. The label is associated with the form element, which is better than just typing the text next to the item.



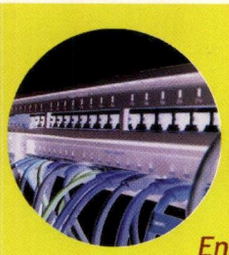
17 ANOTHER TEXT FIELD

Hit Return once the text field appears on the screen. Add another text field, and this time change the access key to c and the tab index of this element to 2. Click OK, press Return then insert a Submit button from the Insert panel underneath the text fields.



18 LAST ACCESS

Again, you'll be asked to fill in accessible content for the Submit button. Fill in the details as shown in the screenshot above. Once you've done this you can save the page, and you'll have successfully added accessible content to your page.



Dedicated Servers

Your own server from £89 per month

Entry Level Server spec:

- 2000 MHz CPU
- 40 GB Hard Disk
- 256 MB Memory
- 20 GB bandwidth per month
- 24/7/365 Technical Support
- Fast Setup - No Setup Fees

WEB TAPESTRY

Your choice of operating system, including:

Red Hat 9.0	Windows Server 2003
£89 per month	**£99** per month
~or~	~or~
£900 per year	**£1000** per year

Other server specifications are available

Co-Location

5 Locations across Europe

- Air conditioned datacentres
- Backup power UPS systems
- 24/7 on site technicians
- High capacity network
- CCTV and access control
- Redundant network links

1U Rackspace +
64kbps Bandwidth
£85 per month

Internet Access

ADSL Broadband from £25 per Month
Always on Internet Access

Pay as you go Dialup internet access
Subscription free access

Leased lines
High speed lines to your location

Web Hosting

From £35 per year

- *** * No Setup Fees * ***
- Windows or Linux
- PHP4, Perl and ASP Support
- FrontPage Support
- Graphical Statistics
- Database support
- PHP4, Perl and ASP Support
- POP3 E-Mail Accounts

Reseller Accounts

Host Unlimited domains for only £49.95 per month
with our Interfusion reseller package

- Use both Windows and Linux webspace
- Unlimited e-mail addresses
- * * No Setup Fees * *
- Unlimited Disk space
- Free 24/7/365 Technical Support
- Windows Server 2003 option available
- 99.9% Network uptime guarantee

Host 20 sites for only £25 per month
with our Interfusion Lite reseller package

Network Consultancy

From experienced consultants

- Network design services
- Technical troubleshooting
- Server support
- Software rollouts
- Project Management services
- VPNs and Wide area networks

Order Online at **www.webtapestry.net**
Phone Free **08000 15 17 18**
e-mail **info@webtapestry.net**

All prices exclude VAT

axamba
www.axamba.com

TUTORIAL: ACCESSIBILITY
CREATE EXCITING ACCESSIBLE SITES IN DREAMWEAVER MX

YOUR EXPERT: NEIL WITHNALL

Neil is a freelance Web developer who has spent years learning the technical and practical aspects of Web design. He is equally at home working in Dreamweaver as he is with the latest hand-coding technologies. Check out what Neil's capable of by popping along to www.freelancenetwork.org.

Tables
Use relatively sized tables that automatically resize to suit the user's screen settings

ALT text descriptions
Create ALT text descriptions that replace images in text-only browsers

Tags
Use paragraph and heading tags to create a logical document structure

XHTML and CSS
Use XHTML and cascading style sheets to design visually exciting sites accessible to all browsers

JavaScript
Use JavaScript and the <noscript> element to display different types of media, depending on the user's browser version

Fonts
Use relatively sized fonts to allow visitors to use font-scaling controls in their browser to increase/decrease the overall font size

THE BRIEF

TUTORIAL OBJECTIVE
Create an accessible site using XHTML and CSS

SKILL LEVEL

TIME REQUIRED
20 minutes

ON THE DISC
Accessibility/ Tutorial files:
Assets [folder]
Complete [folder]
Tutorial [folder]

CREATE EXCITING ACCESSIBLE SITES IN DREAMWEAVER MX

Use Dreamweaver MX 2004 and the latest Web development technologies to create visually dynamic sites designed with accessibility in mind

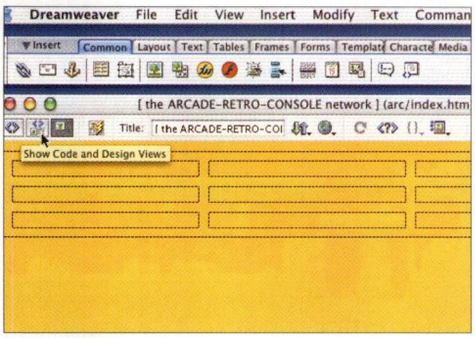
To some people, accessibility means compromise. Users with accessibility requirements can rely to some extent on outmoded hardware and software, so designers often assume they have to eschew new technologies to cater for them.

No retailer would dream of refusing to serve a customer in their shop because of a disability – yet this is exactly what happens on the Web. Public awareness of accessibility issues remains low, so the responsibility lies with Web designers and developers to ensure that they serve the best interests of their own visitors or those of their clients and customers, when designing sites.

Developing a site that fully caters to everyone's needs requires more thought, but by making your site accessible you attract a larger audience, ensuring that the time and effort you invest won't be wasted! If further proof were needed, our project shows how the latest technologies can be used to help create stylish, sophisticated and, above all, accessible sites that have something for everyone. ■

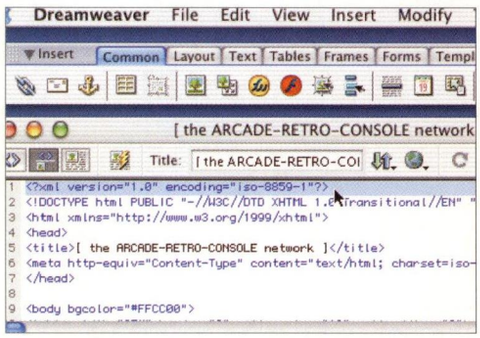
TUTORIAL: ACCESSIBILITY

CREATE EXCITING ACCESSIBLE SITES IN DREAMWEAVER MX



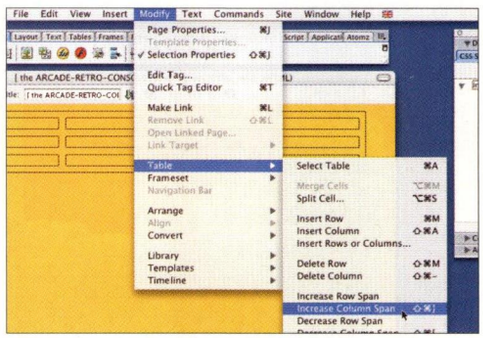
1 MAKING A START

Copy the Tutorial folder to your hard drive and open the index.htm page in Dreamweaver. This document is based on the XHTML standard and, because of its backwards compatibility with older browsers, is ideally suited to the design of accessible sites. To begin, switch to Show Code and Design view.



2 SUPPORT FOR OLDER BROWSERS

One element of XHTML that creates problems for older browsers is the XML Prolog (the version of XML that the document is based on), which causes them to display a text listing of the code rather than interpret the page design. The solution, simply enough, is to delete the <?xml> tag.

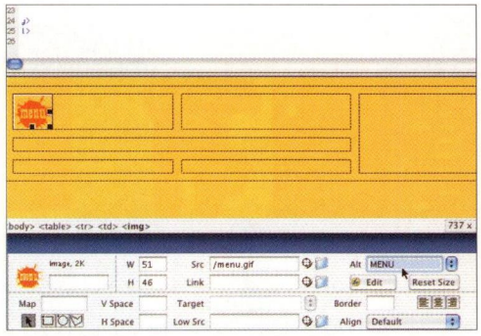


3 MODIFYING THE TABLE DESIGN

Switch back to Design view. To offer the best possible support for older browsers, a relatively sized table will be used instead of layers – which rely on CSS support. To continue, click inside the second row of the first column then choose Modify>Table>Increase Column Span.

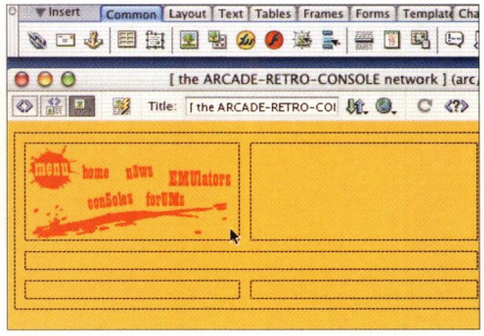
4 CONTROL POSITIONING INSIDE TABLES

Click in the top right-hand cell and choose Modify> Table>Increase Row Span, then repeat so that the column spans all three rows. Using Span settings offers more control over the table layout and removes the need to use nested tables, which aren't supported in older browsers.



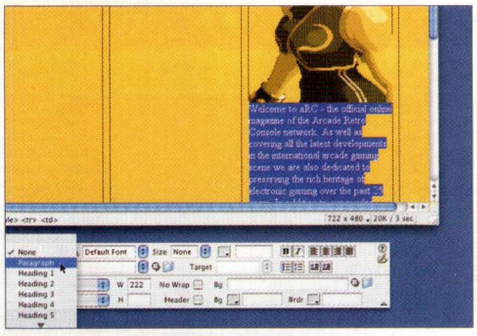
5 CREATING THE SITE MENU

You're now ready to design the menu. Click inside the top left-hand cell then insert the menu.gif image (from img/buttons). Select this image then enter a description into the Alt field of the Properties Inspector. In text browsers, this description will appear in place of the image.



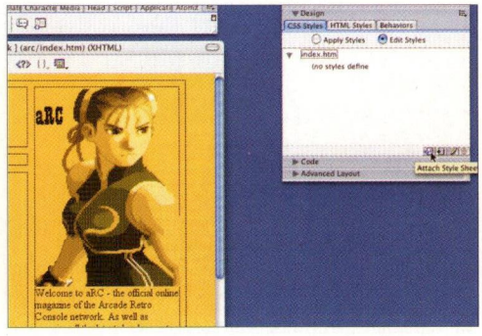
6 CONFIGURING THE MENU BUTTONS

Now insert the remaining menu graphics as shown, entering Alt descriptions and hyperlinks for each. By placing the menu in the first cell position of the table, the text links will appear at the very top of the page in text browsers, making the site quicker and easier to navigate.



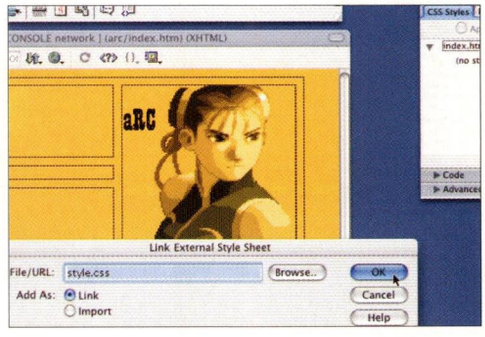
7 FORMATTING PAGE TEXT

Now click inside the far right column and insert the arc.gif image, then enter an Alt description. Click after this image then copy and paste in text from the welcome.txt file (in assets/text). Now highlight the text and change its Format value in the Properties Inspector to 'Paragraph'.



8 DEFINING A DOCUMENT STRUCTURE

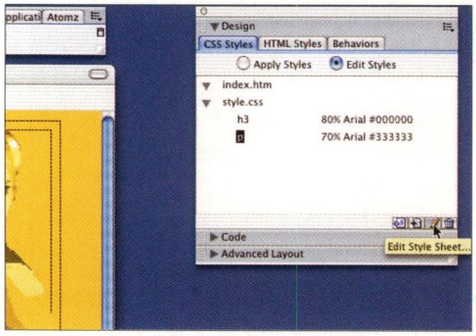
By defining text in this way, you create a document hierarchy that allows browsers to 'understand' how different elements work in relation to each other. You can also gain more control by using style sheets. To do this, open the CSS Styles palette and click on the Attach Style Sheet icon.



9 LINKING TO EXTERNAL STYLE SHEETS

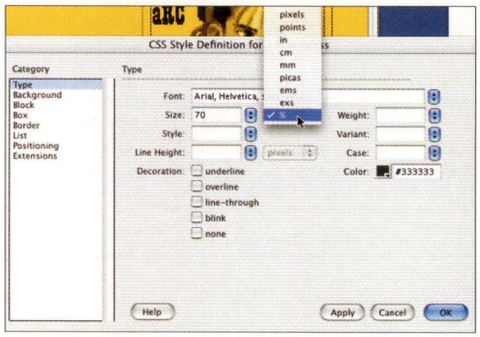
In the window, set the options as shown. Using external style sheets offers two benefits: as style info exists 'away' from the main page code, the page design is updated when the style sheet changes; also, pre-CSS browsers won't need to download this file from the server, improving download times.

CREATE EXCITING ACCESSIBLE SITES IN DREAMWEAVER MX



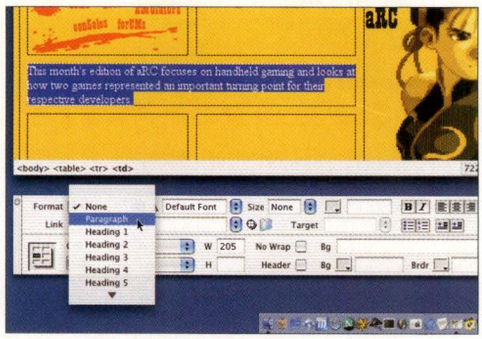
10 CHANGING STYLE PROPERTIES

The CSS Styles window should now update to show two style rules for the <h3> and tags. Although pre-CSS browsers will automatically render heading and paragraph text in their own styles, you can also define settings for modern browsers. Select the 'p' style and click the Edit Styles icon.



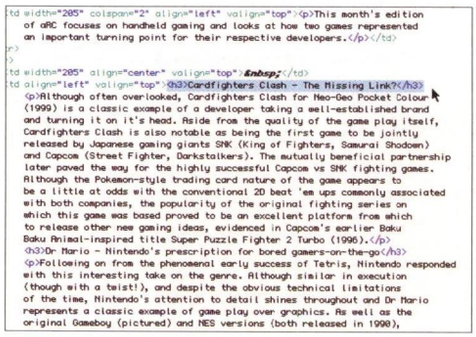
11 FONT SIZES: RELATIVE OR ABSOLUTE?

As shown, relative font sizes have been used, which allows the user to make use of font scaling controls in their browser to increase/decrease the overall font size. Be aware, however, that these controls have little effect if absolute font sizes (in pixels, points, etc) are used.



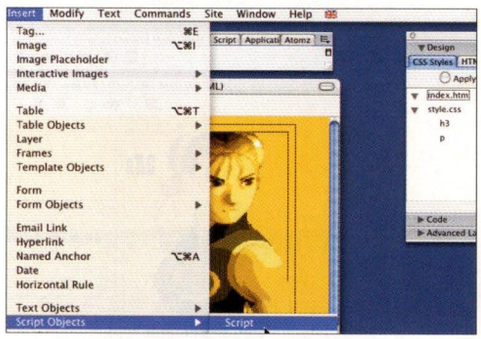
12 MORE TEXT

Now paste in text from feature.txt into the second row, then highlight the text and set to 'Paragraph' format. Although text can also be styled using the <font> tag, this is best avoided, as you'll need to manually update each <font> value if you decide to change the overall font sizes/styles.



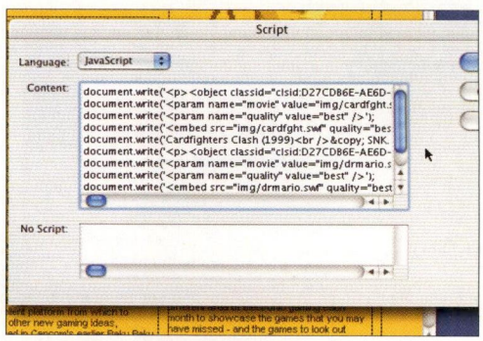
14 EDITING THE PAGE CODE

As shown, the Heading format gets applied to the whole text rather than just the first line. To correct this, switch to Code view then manually enter new <h3></h3> tags surrounding the first/third sections and tags for the remaining text. Delete line breaks then switch to Design view.



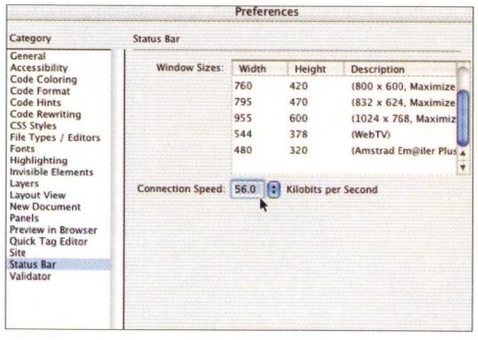
15 SWITCHING BETWEEN MEDIA

When displaying the game screenshots, it's possible to switch between Flash movies and static images, depending on whether the browser supports JavaScript or not. To do this, click inside the first column of the third row then choose Insert>Script Objects>Script.



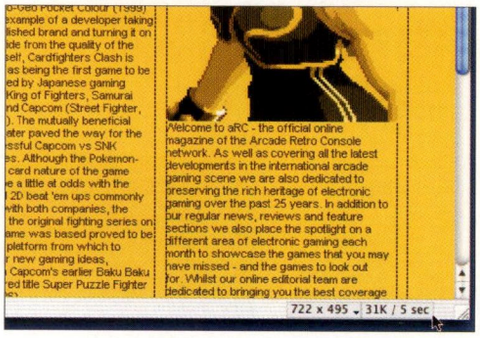
16 GENERATING PAGE CODE

In the Content field, copy and paste in code from the script.txt file (from assets/code). Although at first sight the code may appear complex, the function is simple enough – the document.write() method is used to dynamically write the page code needed to display the Flash movies.



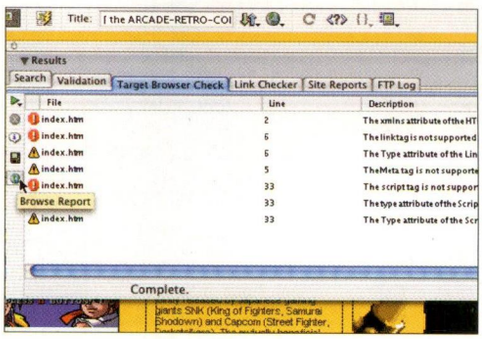
18 DIFFERENT USER SETUPS

To test how well your relatively sized page designs work on systems with different screen resolutions, and how quickly the pages themselves will download, you can choose from a range of predefined profiles in the Status Bar category of the Dreamweaver preferences.



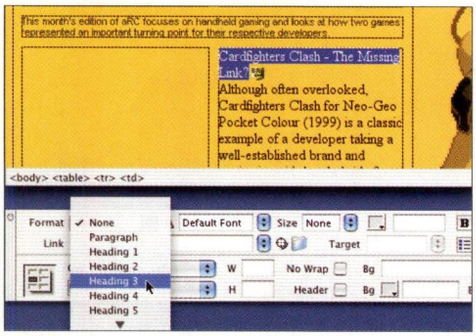
19 TESTING PAGE DOWNLOAD TIMES

By selecting the arc.gif image, an estimation of the image download time based on your connection preferences appears in the bottom right of the Page window. To ensure the best download times for your users, try to design content suitable for dial-up, broadband and wireless Net connections.



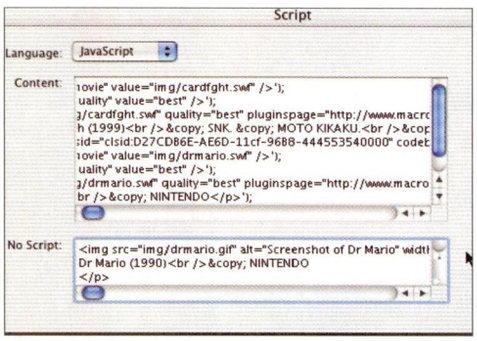
20 TESTING YOUR PAGES

Before uploading your pages, it's a good to idea to use the Check Target Browsers option (File>Check Page>Check Target Browsers). Although in this instance errors and warnings have been generated, none of the code highlighted will stop the page from being displayed properly in older browsers.



13 CREATING PAGE HEADINGS

Click inside the middle column of the third row and paste in the text from the reviews.txt file. To create visual contrast, select the first line of text as shown, then set its Format value to 'Heading 3', which assigns more importance to the text in the general document structure.



17 THE <NOSCRIPT> ELEMENT

Now paste code from the noscript.txt file into the No Script field. Exploiting the fact that older browsers will ignore the JavaScript code, and JavaScript browsers automatically ignore code placed inside the <noscript> element, the visitor sees the media best suited to their browser type.

IN DETAIL: ACCESSIBILITY IN PROFILE

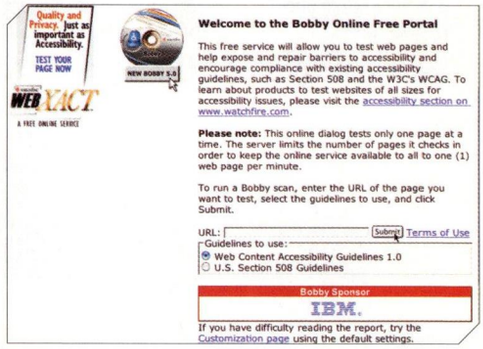
Everybody's heard of it, but what are the real implications for you and your users?

There's no such thing as a generic 'accessibility' audience – each user will have their own requirements based on specific disabilities and impairments, which generally fall into one (or more) of the following categories: visual, hearing, physical, cognitive and neurological. Careful consideration must be given to these users because of their reliance on non-standard or alternative technologies to access the Net.

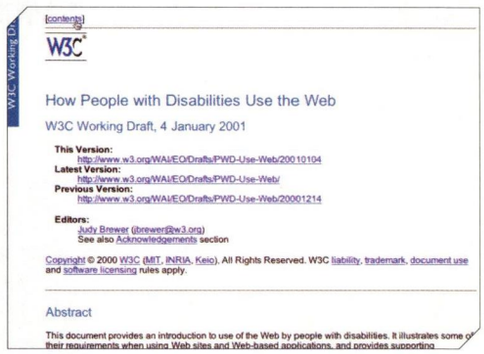
Most obviously, visually impaired users may use assistive devices such as text-to-speech processors (screenreaders) or Braille devices to interpret Web pages, although the systems themselves could be running under MS-DOS, Windows 3.x, Windows 95 or a different OS altogether. In these cases, successfully catering for each group requires not only an understanding of their needs, but also an awareness of the technologies they'll use to access a site.

The term 'accessibility' should also be taken in its literal sense – ie open, available to all. This means removing any technological barriers that stop people accessing a site. Although consumers can connect to the Net using a diverse range of technologies, including PDAs, mobile phones and television sets, the relatively low processing power of these devices often results in reduced browser functionality. For example, the Microsoft Mobile Explorer, commonly used in PDAs, is incapable of CSS, JavaScript or JAVA support – parallelling browser technology circa 1995-1996, around the time of third generation browsers.

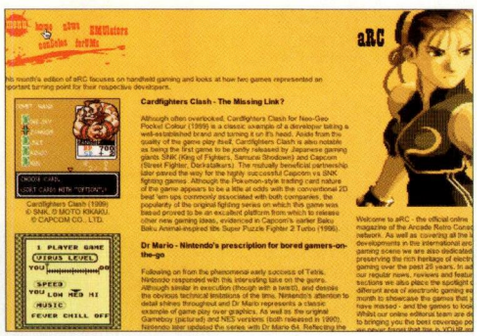
For this reason, designers need to make responsible, informed choices when deciding on technologies to implement site designs. So before you make your next site Flash-only, make sure you give visitors an alternative! ■



■ The Bobby validator at **bobby.watchfire.com/bobby/html/en/index.jsp** lets you see at a glance how accessible your site really is

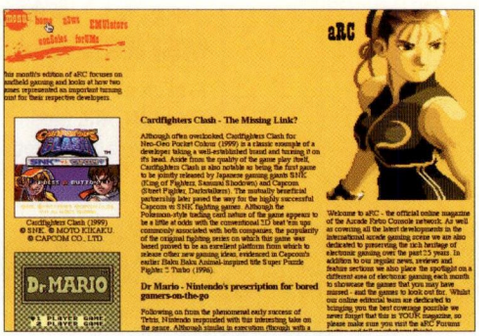


■ The excellent case study at **www.w3.org/WAI/EO/Drafts/PWD-Use-Web** gives a valuable insight into how people with disabilities use the Net



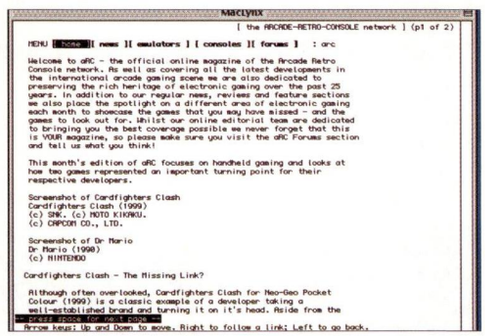
21 MODERN BROWSERS

With the design completed, save the page and preview the results in a modern browser. Style sheet support is fully implemented – meaning the page will have a consistent appearance in all major browsers. Thanks to JavaScript support, the Flash movies appear in place of static GIFs.



22 PRE-CSS GRAPHICS BROWSERS

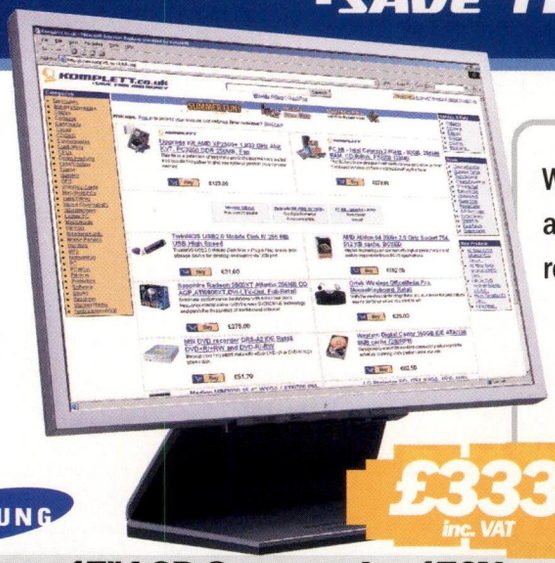
Previewing the page in a pre-CSS browser (Netscape v3) shows that although the CSS formatting is missing, the overall page structure and design themes have been preserved. As expected, without JavaScript support, alternative GIF images have been displayed instead of Flash movies.



23 TEXT BROWSERS

Finally, the page previewed in the Lynx text browser. Displaying the page in this context underlines the importance of using Alt text in your pages. Also of interest is the linear way in which the table layout has been interpreted, highlighting the need for careful consideration when designing tables.

KOMPLETT.co.uk
-SAVE TIME AND MONEY



With a low response time, excellent brightness and contrast, and a slim, lightweight structure, this LCD monitor is an ideal replacement or upgrade for an old CRT.

- 12ms response time
- 16.2 million colours, DVI
- 1280x1024 / 75Hz

SAMSUNG

£333 inc. VAT

Samsung 17" LCD Syncmaster 172X

SKU: 121957

PC EXTREME GOLD RATED

SAPPHIRE

£330 inc. VAT

Sapphire Radeon X800XT 256MB GDDR3

- AGP8x, OpenGL1.5, DirectX9.0
- 2048x1536, TV-out
- 1.12GHz clock speed

SKU: 301009

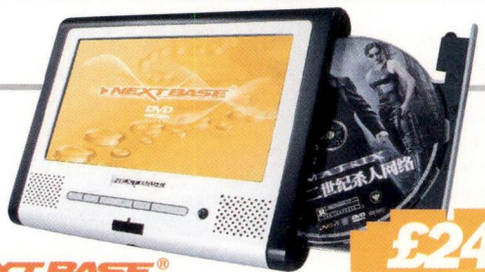
MSI

£50 inc. VAT

MSI DVD recorder DR8-A2

- DVD±RW, 2MB buffer size
- Tray, BURN-Proof
- Microsoft Win98SE/2000/ME/XP

SKU: 300264



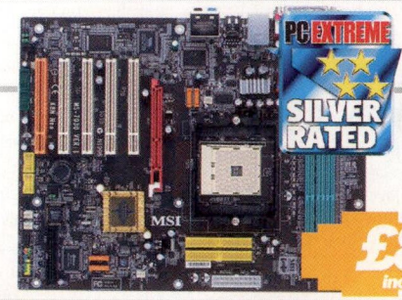
NEXT BASE®

£244 inc. VAT

Next Base portable DVD-player

- 7" TFT active matrix colour
- NTSC, PAL, Stereo
- 480x234, 650g

SKU: 300389



PC EXTREME SILVER RATED

APPROVED

MSI

£82 inc. VAT

MSI K8N NEO Platinum Edition

- nForce3 250GB, SATA
- GbLAN, ATX, Raid
- 800MHz bus speed

SKU: 300050

VERIFIED by VISA

INTERNET SHOPPING IS SAFE

goldenwebawards

The Golden Web Award is presented to those sites whose web design, originality and content have achieved levels of excellence deserving recognition. Komplett is proud of winning this award for 2003. Make your own opinion on www.komplett.co.uk

Prices and specifications are subject to availability and may change without prior notice, see www.komplett.co.uk or www.komplett.ie for updated prices. Prices are correct at the time of going to press. Pictures are representative only. See website for Terms and Conditions. Komplett are not responsible for errors or omissions in the information published. We reserve the right to cancel any orders. An Order Confirmation is a confirmation that we have received your order and is not a binding contract.

KOMPLETT.co.uk?

Komplett.co.uk is a part of the Komplett group of companies which is among the leading e-commerce companies in Europe. We have almost 600,000 customers, and in 2003 alone we delivered more than 500,000 web orders. Our customers consist of private individuals, schools, small and large businesses.
Please visit www.komplett.co.uk for more information.

£499 inc. VAT

Samsung 19" LCD Syncmaster 193P

- TC003, 1280x1024/75Hz
- 16.2million colours
- 0.294mm Dot Pitch

SKU: 123855

£79 inc. VAT

MSI MEGA Stick 256MB MP3-Player

- USB, FM radio, voice rec.
- WMA, MP3, ADPCM
- 12h playback, 29g

SKU: 122999

£30 inc. VAT

TwinMOS USB2.0 Mobile Disk IV 256MB

- High speed flash drive
- 4 PIN USB type A
- Plug & Play

SKU: 301339

£59 inc. VAT

Lite On DVD recorder Dual Layer Retail

- Compatible w 8cm+12cm discs
- PIO 4, DMA 2 and Ultra DMA mode 2
- DVD±RW drive

SKU: 301673

£270 inc. VAT

PC Kit Intel Celeron 2.6GHz

- Celeron 2.6GHz, 80GB HD, 256MB RAM
- CD-R/RW, FX5200 128MB
- Sony floppy drive, Q-Tec case

SKU: 301147

£188 inc. VAT

Palm Zire 72 Handheld

- 1.2megapixel camera, MP3 Player
- 312MHz processor
- 32MB RAM, Bluetooth

SKU: 300336

£60 inc. VAT

Trust SpeedShare Turbo Pro WLAN Router

- Wireless router + 4-port switch
- Static IP routing
- Firewall protection

SKU: 300889

£1.099 inc. VAT

Medion MIM2030

- ATI9700, Pentium M 1.6GHz
- 2x256MB, 80GB HD,
- DVD+ recorder WLAN XPH

SKU: 123892

£88 inc. VAT

Sapphire Radeon 9800SE 128MB

- AGP8x DirectX9.0, OpenGL2.0
- Multiple monitors support
- TV out, Full-Retail

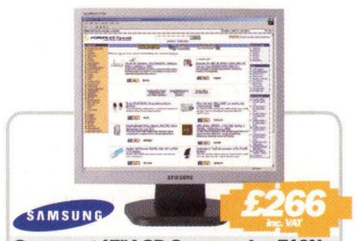
SKU: 123702

£545 inc. VAT

PC Kit Intel P4 3.0GHz

- P4 3.0GHz, DVD±RW,
- ATI9800PRO, 160GB HD
- 512MB, sony floppy, Q-Tec case

SKU: 301152



£266 inc. VAT

Samsung 17" LCD Syncmaster 710N

- 12ms response time
- 16.2 million colours, DVI
- 1280x1024 / 75Hz

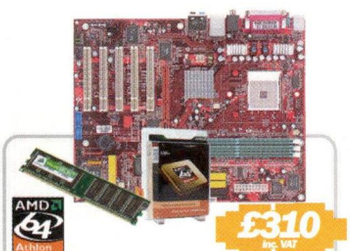
SKU: 300904

£266 inc. VAT

Sapphire Radeon X800PRO

- 256MB GDDR3 AGP8x
- DirectX9.0, OpenGL2.0
- DVI-I, TV-Out, Full-Retail

SKU: 300413



£310 inc. VAT

Upgrade Kit AMD 64 3200+

- AMD 64 3200+, K8T NEO-FSR
- 512MB DDR DIMM
- Fan included

SKU: 118126

£59 inc. VAT

SMC Barricade G Wireless Router

- Wireless router + 4-port switch
- 54 Mbps transfer rate
- Firewall protection

SKU: 117795

£139 inc. VAT

PowerColor Radeon 9800PRO

- 128MB DDR AGP
- DVI-I, TV-Out, Full-Retail
- Multiple monitors support

SKU: 120304

£119 inc. VAT

Thermaltake Xaser III V2000A

- 30dBA sound emission
- 7 installed fans
- Stylish and unique design

SKU: 122753

YOUR choice

When ordering at Komplett, you can choose between our express DHL delivery, and the great value of our ParcelForce courier service. Both are signed-for services, so you can rest easy that your order is in good hands. Unlike some online retailers, if you pay by credit card at Komplett there are no hidden charges from us - so order safe in the knowledge that you'll pay what you expect, and get our excellent service and safe, secure delivery in return.

KOMPLETT.ie

For shipment to Ireland directly from Komplett, please visit our website www.komplett.ie
This website is solely for Eire and is designed with you in mind.

Prices and specifications are subject to availability and may change without prior notice, see www.komplett.co.uk or www.komplett.ie for updated prices. Prices are correct at the time of going to press. Pictures are representative only. See website for Terms and Conditions. Komplett are not responsible for errors or omissions in the information published. We reserve the right to cancel any orders. An Order Confirmation is a confirmation that we have received your order and is not a binding contract.

BUILD AN ONLINE ORGANISER WITH PHP AND MYSQL

THE EXPERT: RACHEL ANDREW

Rachel is a director of Web development company edgeofmyseat.com (**www.edgeofmyseat.com**), and is currently a member of the Web Standards Project (**www.webstandards.org**). With years of Webmaster experience, she has co-written a number of books for Glasshaus (**www.glasshaus.com**) on Web development, the most recent of which was *Dreamweaver MX Design Projects*.

THE BRIEF

TUTORIAL OBJECTIVE
Create an Add New Contact form for your organiser

SKILL LEVEL

TIME REQUIRED
One hour

ON THE DISC
Developer/ Tutorial files:
accessdenied.php
addcontact.php
chklogin.php
conn.php
& more

CODING TIP

FORM VALIDATION

If you want to ensure that certain fields are completed, add some form validation. Before inserting the SQL string, simply check to see if the fields you want completed are greater than nothing:

```
if ($_POST['userFirstName'] != '' &&
$_POST['userLastName'] != '') {
//insert goes here
} else {
$error = "You must complete the
first and last name of a contact.";
}
```

You can then print $error out. To prevent everything the user has entered into the fields from disappearing, write the contents of the post to variables and repopulate the value of the fields if $error != ''.

PART SIX

BUILD AN ONLINE ORGANISER WITH PHP AND MYSQL

This multi-part tutorial takes you through the process of developing an online organiser application using PHP and MySQL

In this series of articles we are creating an online organiser system which will contain elements such as a calendar, to-do list and address book that are available from any location and any computer, because the data is stored in the database of the Web application.

Online organisers are very useful to those who spend a lot of time at different locations. If you need to be able to access your calendar from work and home, or perhaps from an Internet café while on holiday, you will find this type of system invaluable. To work on and test this site locally you'll need to have Apache, PHP and MySQL installed and a site set up in Apache for the organiser files.

In the first five parts of this tutorial we created a signup page, login functionality and started to develop the home page of the organiser, displaying the latest items on the to-do list. We added a page that allows the user to view all to-do list items and to post new items, and last time added the ability to check off items on the to-do list as completed. If you didn't catch the first five parts, don't worry – all the code and the structure of the database are available on the CD so that you can catch up from this point.

This time we will start to create an address book for the organiser. We'll need to have the ability to add, edit and delete contacts in this book. To store the contacts we must create another database table, which will contain fields for all the contact information you might want to store – name, address, email, phone and fax. The SQL below will create the table if you're working directly in the MySQL monitor at the command line, or you can create the table in your favourite MySQL graphical tool:

```
CREATE TABLE tblContacts (
contactID INT NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT
PRIMARY KEY,
contactFirstName VARCHAR(100),
contactLastName VARCHAR(100),
contactEmail VARCHAR(200),
contactAddress1 VARCHAR(255),
contactAddress2 VARCHAR(255),
contactTown VARCHAR(100),
contactCounty VARCHAR(100),
contactCountry VARCHAR(100),
contactTel VARCHAR(40),
contactFax VARCHAR(40)
userID INT);
```

Field	Type	Null	Key	Default	Extra
contactID	int(11)		PRI		auto_increment
contactFirstName	varchar(100)	YES			
contactLastName	varchar(100)	YES			
contactEmail	varchar(200)	YES			
contactAddress1	varchar(255)	YES			
contactAddress2	varchar(255)	YES			
contactTown	varchar(100)	YES			
contactCounty	varchar(100)	YES			
contactCountry	varchar(100)	YES			
contactTel	varchar(40)	YES			
userID	int(11)			0	
contactFax	varchar(40)	YES			

■ This is the database table, displayed in MySQL Control Center, as created by us to store the contacts for the address book

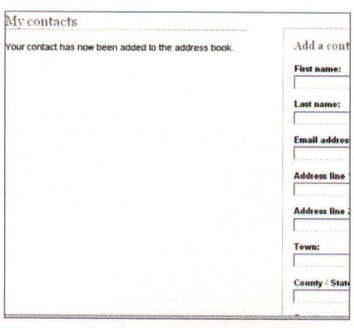
The table also stores the userID of the current user, so that we can check to see which contacts belong to which user and then display them to that user.

The code for this tutorial will demonstrate how to add a new contact to your address book. You'll need to create a new page in your site called 'addcontact.php'. So that the user can access this page and see it's available, we have included it as a link from the main Organiser page by adding the following markup below the heading that welcomes the user to their online organiser:

```
<h2>Contacts</h2>
<ul>
<li><a href="addcontact.php">Add contact
to address book</a></li>
</ul>
```

We'll continue to add to this as we incorporate functionality into the organiser application. With a link created, we can go on to create our Add Contact page. ■

■ To enter a new contact, the user must be logged in and can then enter the necessary details



■ Posting the form inserts the new contact into our database table and then prints out a message to the user

THE CODE

DESCRIPTION

This code will enable you to add a new contact to your address book:

1 Create a new page named 'addcontact.php'. This page needs to have the includes that we've created at the top, because it's part of the secure section of the organiser and needs to know which user is logged in to be able to show the correct organiser details.

2 Check to see whether or not the form has been posted. If it has, we need to deal with the new contact; if not, we simply load the rest of the page.

3 If the form has been posted, create an SQL string including all the fields of our new tblContacts table. We insert the userID of the currently logged in user, because this will be their contact. If the insert is successful, set the variable $post to true.

4 Check to see if the variable $post is true. If it is, we know that a successful contact insertion has taken place and we can display a message so the user knows their new contact has been added to the address book.

5 Create a form on the page. This is the new contact form and so needs to have a field for each of the fields in the database table. We have created this form in the side panel again, as for the new to-do item form. In the next tutorial we'll display the actual address book in the main part of the page. We don't need to have a field for userID, because the login process means we always know which user we're dealing with, so can just pick up the current userID when we process the posted form. We have named the Submit button 'btnAdd', and this is what we're checking for when loading the page. If btnAdd doesn't equal 'nothing', we know the form must have been posted.

```
<?php
require("conn.php");
require("functions.php");
require("chklogin.php");
```

```
if ($_POST['btnAdd'] != '') {
```

```
$sql = "INSERT INTO tblContacts (contactFirstName, contactLastName, contactEmail, contactAddress1,
contactAddress2, contactTown, contactCounty, contactCountry, contactTel, contactFax, userID) VALUES
('" . $_POST['contactFirstName'] . "','" . $_POST['contactLastName'] . "', '" .
$_POST['contactEmail'] . "', '" . $_POST['contactAddress1'] . "', '" . $_POST['contactAddress2'] .
"', '" . $_POST['contactTown'] . "', '" . $_POST['contactCounty'] . "', '" .
$_POST['contactCountry'] . "', '" . $_POST['contactTel'] . "', '" . $_POST['contactFax'] . "', " .
$userID . ")";

          if (mysql_query($sql, $conn)) {
                    $post = true;
          }
}
?><!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"
          "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">

<html>
<head>
<title>My Online Organiser - Add contact</title>
<meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=iso-8859-1" />
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="global.css" />
</head>

<body>
<div id="header">
</div>
<div id="content">

<h1>My contacts</h1>
```

```
<?php
if ($post == true) {?>
<p>Your contact has now been added to the address book.</p>
<?php
}
?>
<div id="todo">
<h2>Add a contact</h2>
```

```
<form method="post" action="addcontact.php">
<p><label for="contactFirstName">First name:</label>
<br /><input type="text" name="contactFirstName" id="contactFirstName" class="txt" /></p>
<p><label for="contactLastName">Last name:</label>
<br /><input type="text" name="contactLastName" id="contactLastName" class="txt" /></p>
<p><label for="contactEmail">Email address:</label>
<br /><input type="text" name="contactEmail" id="contactEmail" class="txt" /></p>
<p><label for="contactAddress1">Address line 1:</label>
<br /><input type="text" name="contactAddress1" id="contactAddress1" class="txt" /></p>
<p><label for="contactAddress2">Address line 2:</label>
<br /><input type="text" name="contactAddress2" id="contactAddress2" class="txt" /></p>
<p><label for="contactTown">Town:</label>
<br /><input type="text" name="contactTown" id="contactTown" class="txt" /></p>
<p><label for="contactCounty">County / State:</label>
<br /><input type="text" name="contactCounty" id="contactCounty" class="txt" /></p>
<p><label for="contactCountry">Country:</label>
<br /><input type="text" name="contactCountry" id="contactCountry" class="txt" /></p>
<p><label for="contactTel">Phone number:</label>
<br /><input type="text" name="contactTel" id="contactTel" class="txt" /></p>
<p><label for="contactFax">Fax number:</label>
<br /><input type="text" name="contactFax" id="contactFax" class="txt" /></p>

<p><input type="submit" name="btnAdd" value="Add Contact" /></p>
</form>
</div>

</div>
</body>
</html>
```

CREATE A BLOG USING PHP AND MYSQL

THE EXPERT: RACHEL ANDREW

Rachel is a director of Web development company edgeofmyseat.com (**www.edgeofmyseat.com**), and is currently a member of the Web Standards Project (**www.webstandards.org**). With years of Webmaster experience, she has co-written a number of books for Glasshaus (**www.glasshaus.com**) on Web development, the most recent of which was *Dreamweaver MX Design Projects*.

THE BRIEF

TUTORIAL OBJECTIVE
Add commenting functionality to the blog home page

SKILL LEVEL

TIME REQUIRED
One hour

ON THE DISC

Developer/ Tutorial files:
admin [folder]
archive.php
dbBlog.sql
index.php
main.css

PART SIX

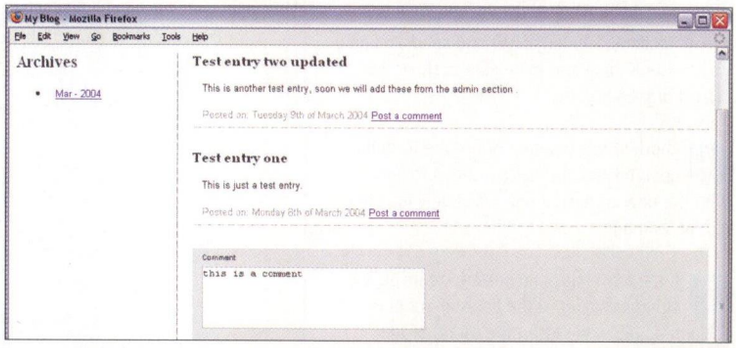
CREATE A BLOG USING PHP AND MYSQL

In this multi-part tutorial we are creating a blog application. This time we'll add a comment-posting facility

This multi-part tutorial will take you through the steps to create a simple blog application using PHP and MySQL. While you might not be interested in pouring out your heart to the rest of the Net in an online journal, blogs are fast becoming big news on corporate Web sites. A frequently updated commentary on relevant industry news can make an interesting addition to the Web site of a business, and the fresh content makes the site look up to date.

Creating a blog also teaches you many of the basics of any database-driven Web site. Posting entries to a database, editing those entries and displaying data from the database are all things you'll do when creating many different applications with PHP and MySQL, so the skills learned in this tutorial are easily transferable to other projects you may have in mind.

In the previous tutorials we created the database to store our blog entries and then created a page to display the ten most recent entries to the blog, with the newest entry at the top of the list and an archive for older entries. We also created a basic administration section, which so far enables you to add, edit and delete entries. If you missed these tutorials, you can still follow along from this point because all the files and the SQL script to create the database so far are on the CD. You will need a local Web server running PHP and MySQL in order to be able to test these pages locally.



After clicking the link to add a comment, the user fills in the form for that comment on the page

This time we'll add the ability for your visitors to comment on your posts. Adding a comment facility enables your users to interact with you through your blog, and is one way to engage readers and hopefully encourage them to come back to see what other people have to say about the subject.

Comments facilities aren't always required – for example, comments on a company blog might be a bad idea because the comments people make could be construed as being the opinion of the company. Blogs that allow comments do need to be watched, in case people add unpleasant comments of even contribute to the recent phenomenon of blog spam!

We must first create a table in which to store the user comments. This will need to link the comments posted to the entry they relate to. Log into MySQL, select the database 'dbBlog' and type the following to create your comments table:

```
CREATE TABLE tblComments (
commentID INT NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT
PRIMARY KEY,
commentText TEXT,
commentName VARCHAR(255),
commentEmail VARCHAR(255),
commentWeb VARCHAR(255),
entryID INT);
```

This will create the table in which the comments are stored.

The rest of this tutorial will walk through the steps of creating a basic comments form that will let people add comments to your blog. In this issue's tutorial we'll add the functionality to post comments; next time we'll look at how we can display them. ■

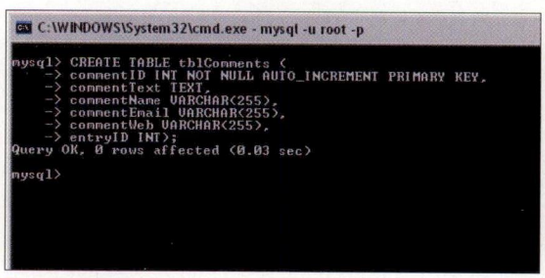
CODING TIP

ADDING COMMENTS TO THE ARCHIVE PAGE

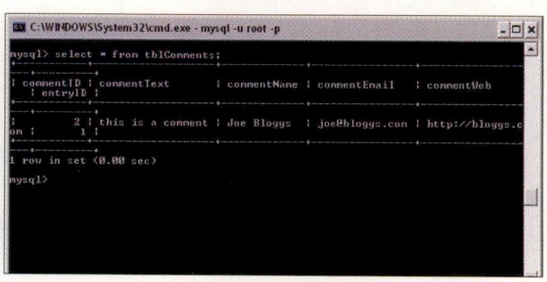
To add your new comment functionality to the blog archive page, you can simply repeat the process as for the main blog page, ensuring that you add all the component parts to the page. The only difference is that in the action of the form you'll need to add the information from the QueryString to indicate which archive you are in:

```
<form method="post"
action="archive.php?month=<?php
echo
$_GET['month']?>&amp;year=<?php
echo $_GET['year']?>"
class="comment"
id="comment<?=$row['entryID']?>"
style="display:none;">
```

When the form is submitted, the QueryString will be included and the user will end up back on the Archive page that they posted the comment from.



Create a table in MySQL that will store the blog entry comments – linked to the entry by the field entryID



The comments are inserted into the database with the entryID that they relate to, so we can display them later

THE CODE

DESCRIPTION

Now that you have the background, we'll add the functionality to post comments:

1 Make a connection to the MySQL database – you will need to replace USERNAME and PASSWORD with your MySQL username and password. Select the blog database so that we can use it.

2 Check to see if the comments form has been posted. If it has, insert the comment into the database.

3 This JavaScript function enables the show/hide area on the page we are using for the comment form. You need to pass it the id of the area you wish to toggle on or off – if it's displayed it will hide it, and if it's hidden it will show it.

4 After a comment is posted, the value of $comment is set to true. Here we check if $comment == true, and if so display a message so the user knows that their comment has been posted.

5 The JavaScript function is called onclick of the link to post a comment. We add the entryID of this blog entry onto the text comment in order to make up the id for the comment form we wish to toggle.

6 The form into which the user adds their comment is held within the loop that displays the blog items. This means that a form is displayed for each item. The form has an id, as do the other form elements. However, ids should be unique in the document and we need a unique form id so that we can toggle the correct form – so we add the entryID onto the end of each id value. But don't add the id onto the name. The id on the form should now have the same value as that in the Toggle function that relates to this entry. There is also a hidden field that contains this entryID, so that it may be inserted into the database

```
<?php
$conn = mysql_connect("localhost","USERNAME","PASSWORD");
mysql_select_db("dbBlog", $conn);

if ($_POST['btnComment'] != '') {
        $sql = "INSERT INTO tblComments (commentText, commentName, commentEmail, commentWeb,
entryID) VALUES ('" . $_POST['commentText'] . "','" . $_POST['commentName'] . "', '" .
$_POST['commentEmail'] . "','" . $_POST['commentWeb'] . "'," . $_POST['entryID'] . ")";
        if (mysql_query($sql, $conn))
        {
                $comment = true;
        }
}
?><!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"
        "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">
<html>
<head>
<title>My Blog</title>
<style type="text/css" media="screen">@import "main.css";</style>

<script language="javascript" type="text/javascript">
function toggle( targetId ){
  if (document.getElementById){
                target = document.getElementById( targetId );
                        if (target.style.display == "none"){
                                target.style.display = "";
                        } else {
                                target.style.display = "none";
                        }
        }
}
</script>
</head>
<body>
<div id="header">
<h1>My Blog</h2>
</div>
<div id="content">

<?php
if($comment == true) {?>
<p>Thank you for posting your comment.</p>
<?php
}
if($result = mysql_query("SELECT entryID, entryTitle, entryText, UNIX_TIMESTAMP(entryDate) AS
theDate FROM tblEntries ORDER By entryDate DESC LIMIT 10")) {
        while ($row = mysql_fetch_array($result)) {
        $theDate = date("l jS of F Y", $row['theDate']);
        ?>
        <h2><?=$row['entryTitle']?></h2>
        <p><?=$row['entryText']?>.</p>

        <p class="date">Posted on: <?=$theDate?> <a href="#"
onclick="toggle('comment<?=$row['entryID']?>')">Post a comment</a></p>

<form method="post" action="index.php" class="comment" id="comment<?=$row['entryID']?>"
style="display:none;">
        <p><label for="commentText<?=$row['entryID']?>">Comment</label>
        <br /><textarea name="commentText" id="commentText<?=$row['entryID']?>" rows="4"
cols="30"></textarea></p>
        <p><label for="commentName<?=$row['entryID']?>">Name</label>
        <br /><input name="commentName" id="commentName<?=$row['entryID']?>" type="text"
class="text" /></p>
        <p><label for="commentEmail<?=$row['entryID']?>">Email</label>
        <br /><input name="commentEmail" id="commentEmail<?=$row['entryID']?>" type="text"
class="text" /></p>
        <p><label for="commentWeb<?=$row['entryID']?>">Web site</label>
        <br /><input name="commentWeb" id="commentWeb<?=$row['entryID']?>" type="text"
class="text" /></p>
        <input type="hidden" name="entryID" id="entryID" value="<?=$row['entryID']?>" />
        <p><input type="submit" name="btnComment" value="Submit" class="submit" /></p>
        </form>
        <?php
        }

}else {
        print "<p>There are currently no entries made to the blog.";
}
?>
</div>
<div id="side">
<h2>Archives</h2>
<ul>
<?php
$monthnames = array("","Jan","Feb","Mar","Apr","May","Jun","Jul","Aug","Sep","Oct","Nov","Dec");
if ($archive = mysql_query("SELECT DISTINCT month(entryDate) AS month, year(entryDate) AS year,
CONCAT(year(entryDate),month(entryDate)) AS ym FROM tblEntries ORDER BY ym DESC")) {

        while ($dates = mysql_fetch_array($archive)) {
                print "<li><a href=\"archive.php?month=" . $dates['month'] . "&amp;year=" .
$dates['year'] . "\">" . $monthnames[$dates['month']] . " - " . $dates['year'] . "</a></li>";
        }

}
mysql_close($conn);
?>
</ul>
</div>
</body>
</html>
```

TUTORIAL: DEVELOPER
CREATE AN ONLINE HELPDESK USING ASP

THE EXPERT: RACHEL ANDREW

Rachel is a director of Web development company edgeofmyseat.com (**www.edgeofmyseat.com**), and is currently a member of the Web Standards Project (**www.webstandards.org**). With years of Webmaster experience, she has co-written a number of books for Glasshaus (**www.glasshaus.com**) on Web development, the most recent of which was *Dreamweaver MX Design Projects*.

PART SIX

CREATE AN ONLINE HELPDESK USING ASP

In this multi-part tutorial we are looking at how to create a helpdesk system, enabling users to raise support tickets

THE BRIEF

TUTORIAL OBJECTIVE
Add ticket update details to the Admin section

SKILL LEVEL

TIME REQUIRED
One hour

ON THE DISC
Developer/ Tutorial files:
admin [folder]
admin-user.asp
conn.asp
dbHelpdesk.mdb
& more

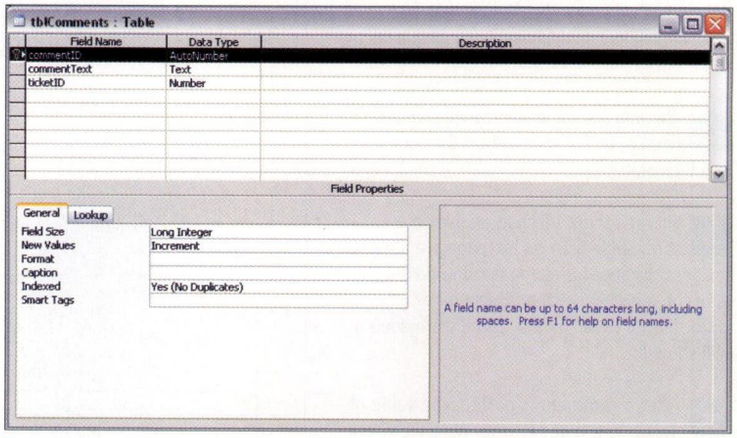
For a business that provides a service, an online helpdesk system can be a useful method of giving clients an easy way to request support. You may have used such a system on your ISP or host – if you're having a problem you can create a ticket on their system, which they can respond to and hopefully deal with your request. For the company, the online system cuts down on the number of telephone calls they have to answer, and the user feels that their request is now in the queue and can return to the site to check on its progress.

The helpdesk system we are going to create has two sides. One side is comprised of the pages the user sees when visiting the helpdesk. The user will be able to log into their helpdesk screen, and once logged in will be able to raise a new ticket and view tickets already held on the system.

The administration side is where the support staff will log in to view and resolve tickets. The staff log in with unique usernames, as this means we can record who's dealing with the problem. Once logged in they can edit tickets, close tickets and also post to the list of known issues that appears on every user's screen. Staff can also add new user accounts to the system.

Last time we began to work on the administration side of the system by adding the ability for administrators to log in. This time we'll add the functionality that allows administrators to process and update tickets. Don't worry if you didn't follow the last five tutorials – you can catch up here, because all the code and the database needed are available on the CD.

We'll allow our administrators to edit the status of tickets and also to add multiple comments to a ticket as it goes through to a resolution. We'll need an extra table in our database that the comments on each ticket can be added to. Create a new table with these fields:



Create a new database table, 'tblComments', with a field for the commentText and one for the id of the ticket

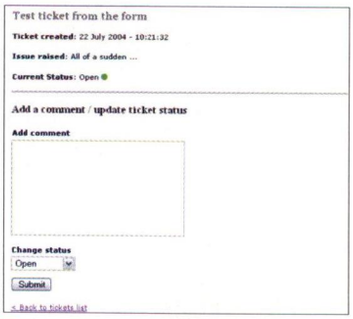
commentID AutoNumber
commentText Text
ticketID Number

The field ticketID will contain the id of the ticket that the comments relate to, which means we can easily select the comments that relate to the selected ticket by looking up the ticketID field in the table.

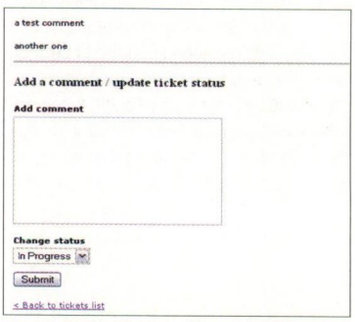
The new page we'll create in the Admin folder is 'editTicket.asp'. To be able to click through to this from the initial list of tickets on admin/default.asp, make a link around the field ticketSubject in the table that displays all tickets on admin/default.asp. This link should have the ticketID as the value of the QueryString parameter ticketID.

```
<a
href="editTicket.asp?ticketID=<%=rsTickets
("ticketID")%>"><%=rsTickets("ticketSubj
ect")%>
```

Reload this page, and you should have a link with a unique id for each row in the table, just as you did for the user's ticket list on helpdesk.asp. The code for this tutorial is for the new page admin/editTicket.asp. ■



Once logged in, the administrator can click on a ticket and be taken to its details to view or edit

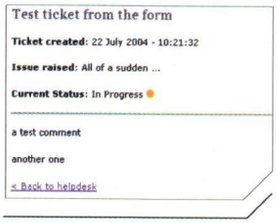


Any comments posted by the administrator display below the ticket, and the status can be updated by the administrator

CODING TIP

ADDING COMMENTS TO THE USER'S DETAILS PAGE

You can add the comments supplied by the administrator to the user's Ticket Display page easily. You'll need to copy the recordset information from the top of the page – the section that starts 'Set rsComments' as well as the section of the page that loops through and displays the comments. Paste the recordset below the recordset that gets the ticket information, and the looping section below the ticket display. Don't forget to declare your variable rsComments and strComments at the top of the page, otherwise you get an error if you have Option Explicit on due to an undeclared variable.



THE CODE

DESCRIPTION

It's coding time once again, so let's get down to work:

1 Open the ASP page setting Option Explicit, including the connection include and the administration user checking include. Now declare all the variables that we'll be using in this page.

2 If the form has been posted, write the form contents out to variables, replacing any single quotes that could be used to create an SQL injection attack or cause nasty errors if they're sent to the database in your SQL string.

3 Update the ticket status using the value selected in the form.

4 If the administrator has added a comment, insert the comment and the ticket id into the new table that we've created for this purpose.

5 Open recordsets to display the ticket, the comments and also the list of possible statuses.

6 Display the ticket in the same way as we do on the user's Ticket Details page.

7 If there are any comments already added to this ticket, loop through and display them here.

8 Create a form for the administrator to add a comment to this ticket. This form simply consists of one text area in which a comment may be typed – and there is also a drop-down list of statuses. The status that this ticket is currently set to is selected by checking to see which status id in the recordset rsTickets matches the statusID from rsStatus. When we find a match, we then write out selected="selected" on that option. We also add a hidden field with the ticketID in it, as this will enable us to identify our ticket once the form has been posted back to itself. Where we use the posted or QueryString ticketID in the page, we use Request("ticketID"). This means that we can get the id whether it's on the QueryString or posted in the form.

```
<%@LANGUAGE = "VBSCRIPT"%>
<%Option Explicit%>
<!–#include virtual="/helpdesk/conn.asp"–>
<!–#include virtual="/helpdesk/admin-user.asp"–>
<%
Dim rs, strSQL, rsTicket, strTicket, rsStatus, strStatus, statusID, ticketID, commentText,
rsComments, strComments
```

```
if Request.Form("btnEdit") > "" Then
        ticketID = Replace(Request.Form("ticketID"),"'","''")
        statusID = Replace(Request.Form("statusID"),"'","''")
        commentText = Replace(Request.Form("commentText"),"'","''")
```

```
strSQL = "UPDATE tblTickets SET statusID = " & statusID & " WHERE ticketID = " & ticketID
        conn.execute(strSQL)
```

```
if commentText <> "" Then
                strSQL = "INSERT INTO tblComments (commentText, ticketID) VALUES ('" &
commentText & "', " & ticketID & ")"
                conn.execute(strSQL)
        end if
end if
```

```
Set rsTicket = Server.CreateObject("ADODB.Recordset")
strTicket = "SELECT ticketDate, ticketTime, ticketSubject, ticketDetails, statusID, statusName,
statusIcon FROM qTickets WHERE ticketID = " & Request("ticketID")
rsTicket.open strTicket, conn

Set rsComments = Server.CreateObject("ADODB.Recordset")
strComments = "SELECT commentText FROM tblComments WHERE ticketID = " & Request("ticketID")
rsComments.open strComments, conn

Set rsStatus = Server.CreateObject("ADODB.Recordset")
strStatus = "SELECT * FROM tblStatus ORDER BY statusName"
rsStatus.open strStatus, conn
%><!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"
        "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">

<html>
<head>
<title>HelpDesk</title>
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="../styles.css" />
</head>

<body>
<div id="header">

<h1>Help Desk</h1>
</div>
<div id="content">
```

```
<%if not rsTicket.eof Then%>
<h2><%=rsTicket("ticketSubject")%></h2>

<p><strong>Ticket created</strong>: <%=FormatDateTime(rsTicket("ticketDate"),vbLongDate)%> -
<%=rsTicket("ticketTime")%></p>

<p><strong>Issue raised</strong>: <%=rsTicket("ticketDetails")%></p>

<p><strong>Current Status</strong>: <%=rsTicket("statusName")%> <img
src="../img/<%=rsTicket("statusIcon")%>" height="10" width="10" alt="<%=rsTicket("statusName")%>"
title="<%=rsTicket("statusName")%>" /></p>
<%if not rsComments.eof then%>
<hr />
```

```
<%Do While Not rsComments.eof%>
<p><%=rsComments("commentText")%></p>
<%rsComments.MoveNext
Loop
end if%>
<hr />
```

```
<h3>Add a comment / update ticket status</h3>
<form method="post" action="editTicket.asp">
<p><label for="commentText">Add comment</label>
<br /><textarea name="commentText" id="commentText" rows="8" cols="30"></textarea></p>
<input type="hidden" name="ticketID" value="<%=Request("ticketID")%>" />
<p><label for="statusID">Change status</label>
<br /><select name="statusID" id="statusID">
<%Do While Not rsStatus.eof%>
<option value="<%=rsStatus("statusID")%>"<%if rsStatus("statusID") = rsTicket("statusID") Then%>
selected="selected"<%end if%>><%=rsStatus("statusName")%></option>
<%rsStatus.MoveNext
Loop%>
</select></p>
<p><input type="submit" name="btnEdit" value="Submit" /></p>
</form>
<%else%>
<h2>Can't find ticket!</h2>
<p>We're sorry but we can't locate that ticket.</p>
<%end if%>
<p><a href="default.asp">&lt; Back to tickets list</a>
<%
rsTicket.close
Set rsTicket = nothing%>
</div>
</body>
</html>
```

THE EXPERT: RACHEL ANDREW
Rachel is a director of Web development company edgeofmyseat.com (**www.edgeofmyseat.com**), and is currently a member of the Web Standards Project (**www.webstandards.org**). With years of Webmaster experience, she has co-written a number of books for Glasshaus (**www.glasshaus.com**) on Web development, the most recent of which was *Dreamweaver MX Design Projects*.

PART NINE

BUILD A WEB PORTAL THAT USERS CAN CUSTOMISE

In the last part of this tutorial we'll create the Article Display page, in order to display the article that has been clicked

THE BRIEF

TUTORIAL OBJECTIVE
Add the functionality to display the article in full

SKILL LEVEL

TIME REQUIRED
One hour

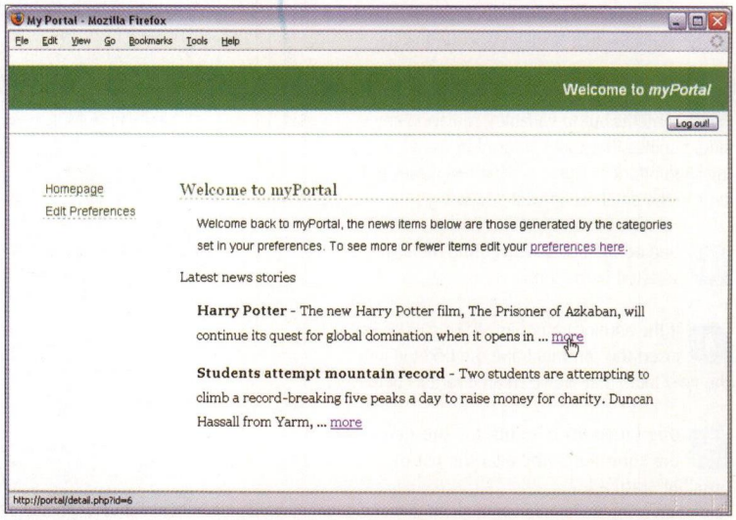
ON THE DISC
Developer/ Tutorial files:
admin [folder]
accessdenied.php
conn.php
dbmyportal.sql
& more

The aim of this multi-part tutorial has been to design and build a user customisable portal site, where users have control over the look, feel and content that's displayed.

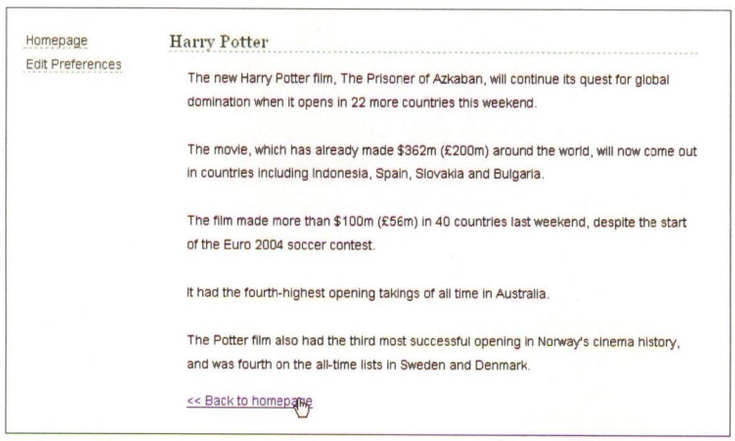
In the first eight parts we designed a portal site that will allow for customisation by the user, and created a signup page, allowing users to sign up for an account on the portal. Our users can now log into the portal and edit their basic user details.

We've also added functionality to enable the user to select a colour scheme for the site by swapping style sheets, and to select the content categories they wish to view. Now when users log into the site, the home page will display in their chosen colour scheme and the content that's displayed is selected in terms of the categories they have chosen. We've also added an Admin section where content can be added and categorised. Don't worry if you haven't followed the earlier parts of this series, because all the files and an SQL script to create the database tables are available on the cover CD.

After the last tutorial, we left the user's home page as just a list of article titles with a short snippet of the content by way of a taster of what's in the article. In this final tutorial we need to create a page where we can display the full article for the user to read. In order to do this, we'll create a link to the new Details page that has a QueryString parameter of id; the value of this parameter is the contentID of the article we want to display. On the Details page itself, all we need to do is get that id from the QueryString and use it to select from the database the row that has a contentID field that matches this value. If the id matches a row in the database, we can go on to display this article to the user.



The home page displays either the user's chosen articles or articles from all categories with a link to the full content



Clicking on the Article link takes the user to a full version of the article they're interested in

As this is the final article in this series, you should now have a functional portal site that allows the user to make basic customisations of content, plus look and feel. This framework could easily be extended to add more types of content, by adding new content tables that link to the category ids or other options for customisation using the same methods.

Even if you don't have a use for the portal in its current form, the various parts of it – user account creation, login, content administration and customisation – are all useful bits of functionality that can be found in many different types of applications. For example, you could use the functionality that enables style sheet swapping in a site, so that users can select a style sheet with larger fonts or high contrast, thus adding a feature that will enhance its accessibility and provide extra interest for your users. ■

CODING TIP

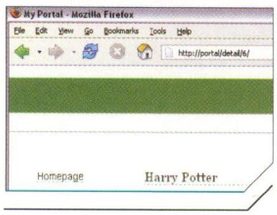
REWRITING URLS

Putting the id of the content you wish to retrieve onto the QueryString is the usual way to manage database-driven content, but it does lead to messy-looking URLs.

One way around this problem (on an Apache server) is to use mod_rewrite. This allows you to turn something like **http://myportal.com/detail.php?id=1** into **http://myportal.com/detail/1/**, which looks nicer and is easier to remember.

Using mod_rewrite has an additional benefit, in that the pages are more likely to be indexed by search engines, which sometimes will not index dynamic content.

More info on how to implement mod_rewrite can be found at **www.yourhtmlsource.com/sitemanagement/urlrewriting.html**.



THE CODE

DESCRIPTION

And here it is – that final piece of coding that will complete the jigsaw puzzle:

1 Open the home page of the site: index.php. We need to edit the part that loops through and displays the article to include a link to the Article Details page. After the short content is displayed, add the following: <a href="detail.php?id=<?php echo $row['contentID']?>">more

```
<?php
if($result = mysql_query($sql)) {
        while ($row = mysql_fetch_array($result)) { ?>
<p><strong><?php echo $row['contentTitle']?></strong> - <?php echo $row['contentText']?> ... <a
href="detail.php?id=<?php echo $row['contentID']?>">more</a></p>
<?php
}
}?>
```

2 Create a new page named 'detail.php'. Include the Connection include, because we'll be using the database on this page to retrieve the article.

```
<?php
require ("conn.php");
```

3 Get the value of the id on the QueryString and write this to the variable $contentID. Create an SQL string that selects the row from tblContent that has an id of contentID. Now open the XHTML document, remembering to include 'top.php' after the title, as it contains all the information that enables the style sheet switching. The top.php include contains the closing </head> tag and opening <body> tag, so you don't need to add these to the document again.

```
$contentID = $_GET['id'];

$sql = "SELECT * FROM tblContent WHERE contentID = " . $contentID;


?><!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"
        "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">

<html>
<head>
<title>My Portal</title>
<?php require("top.php"); ?>
```

4 If this id matches an article, get the details into an array. Write out the title of the article between <h1></h1> tags.

```
<?php
$result = mysql_query($sql);
if ($row = mysql_fetch_array($result)) {
?>
<h1><?php echo $row['contentTitle']?></h1>
```

5 Get the contentText; this text may well have been inserted with line breaks. So that it doesn't all run together in one long block, we need to turn those line breaks into HTML tags. The PHP function nl2br() converts the line breaks to <br/> tags, so we can use that to create the breaks.

```
<p><?php echo nl2br($row['contentText'])?></p>
```

6 If we didn't find an article, we need to let the user know. It's possible that the article is missing because the user has edited the id on the QueryString, or perhaps there's been some problem in the database. Whatever the case, we can show a message to the user to let them know, rather than them seeing a PHP error message. Whether an article has been displayed or not, add a link to take the user back to the home page.

```
<?php
} else {?>
<h1>Sorry</h1>
<p>We are unable to locate this article.</p>

<?php
}
?>

<p><a href="index.php">&lt;&lt; Back to homepage</a></p>

</div>
</body>
</html>
```

Gallery

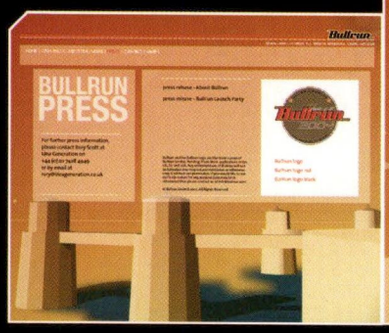
BULLRUN 2004

Name: Bullrun 2004
URL: www.bullrun.com
Designed by: Unknown

If this site was judged on the sort of thing it promotes, eg fast cars and exotic locations, it could easily be awarded Champion of Champions. While not a patch on the actual event, **www.bullrun.com** is unique in its technical design and presentation. Publicising this Gum Ball Rally-esque race for the rich and famous is achieved by zooming the visitor down a virtual highway, between stylish illustrations of the kind of buildings entrants can expect to drop in on. The full-screen format also provides an airiness matched by a superb use of stark colour and abstract lines, while the crisp layout of text and photography is equally well measured. ■

A BIT OF BULLY

Much of this site's appeal is the way it catapults you along hazy roads in search of hidden content. But the real triumph is the economic use of warm colours and the minimalist touch to the illustrations that would otherwise have been too busy.



SUBMISSIONS

SEND YOUR SITES TO US

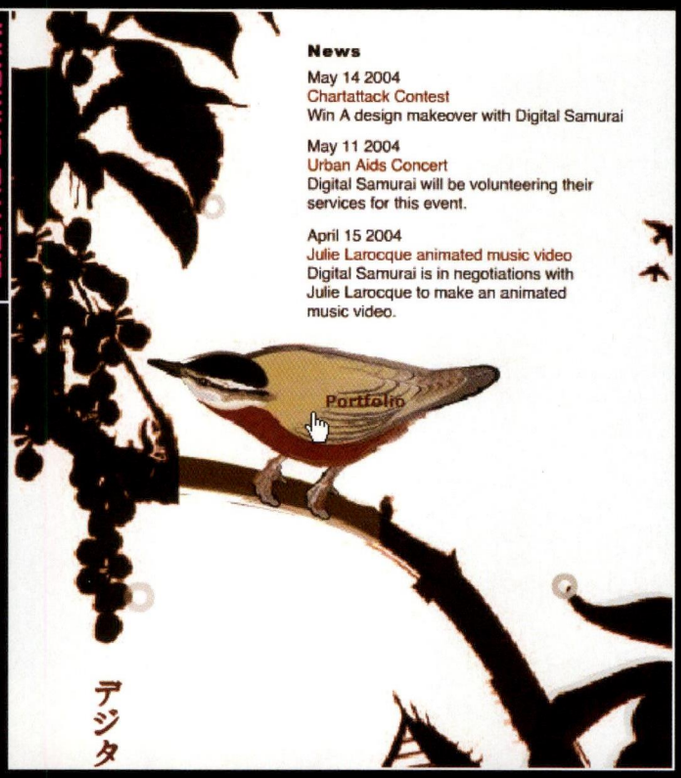
Have you got a site or a piece of artwork you've created that you'd like to see featured on these pages? If you're reading this thinking that you've done better, please drop us a line and we'll showcase your work to our like-minded readers. It doesn't matter if you're a Flash guru or a Photoshop master – as long as you've created something cool and visually appealing, we'll cover your work in here. Who knows what it could lead to?

CONTACT:

Web Designer
Highbury Entertainment Limited,
Paragon House,
St Peters Road,
Bournemouth, BH1 2JS

Email: webdesigner@paragon.co.uk

DIGITAL SAMURAI

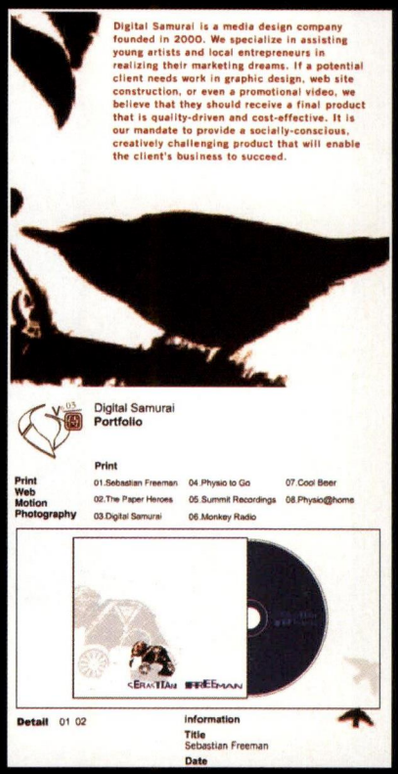


Name: Digital Samurai
URL: www.digital-samurai.net
Designed by: Digital Samurai

Sounding not unlike the kind of Japanese-inspired futuristic action flick that stars Jean Claude Van Damme, you'll be pleased to find that Digital Samurai is actually a very elegant site. It demonstrates the design firm's deft hand at mixing oriental iconography with delicate Flash animation, with a navigation system that glides between the various sections of content. As tranquil sounds of bird chirps echo through the speakers, you won't fail to be impressed by the effective graphical tricks that await every click. Subtle rollovers illuminate the abstract rendering of a typically Eastern scene, before the camera cleverly swoops down onto portfolios, news postings and services. ■

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

The things to draw from this site are the concepts of inventiveness and identity. It's nice to see that the firm has tried to project a visual identity that befits its name, and has used typical imagery from oriental art to bring the navigation system to life.

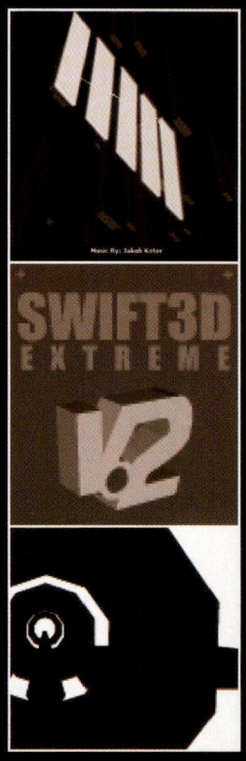


Name: Swift 3D Extreme
URL: www.swift3d.com/extreme/
Designed by: Electric Rain

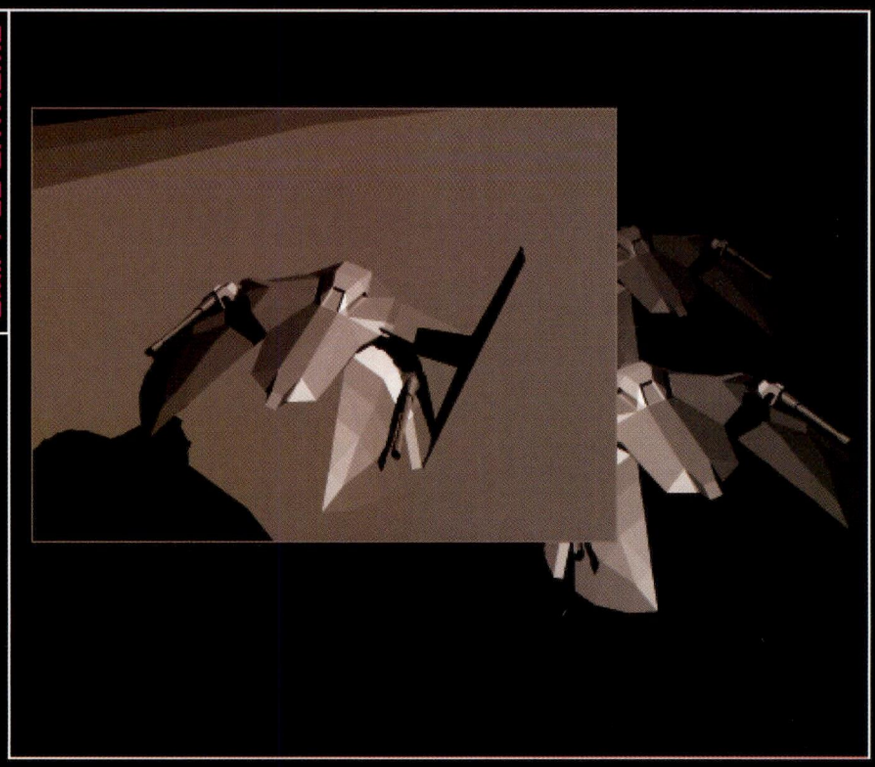
Macromedia's Flash redefines the modern Web experience in ways that good old HTML could never manage. Today's cutting-edge sites owe much to the creative flexibility and multimedia authoring the standard brought with it. However, the real power is derived from extensions like Electric Rain's brilliant Swift 3D, which has unlocked 3D rendering capabilities for Flash designers. This URL showcases the techniques possible with this amazing piece of kit. Highly immersive sequences like the Matrix-esque 'Visions', 'Zag' and 'Coaster' are inspiring, alongside the bevy of source files that'll help you get started with your own efforts. ■

SWIFT TALKING

If you've ever wondered how today's designers manage to add a sprinkling of 3D animation into their content, Swift 3D is usually the answer. This site is the perfect intro to the Flash modelling tool, with some awesome examples.



SWIFT 3D EXTREME



ARS THANEA [ART OF VIEW]

Name: Ars Thanea (Art of View)
URL: www.thanea.com/ars
Designed by: Ars Thanea

Great sites don't simply design themselves – it usually takes a lot of time and effort on the part of a talented creative team before everything is just right. However, this effort from the crew at Ars Thanea introduces itself by drawing its content into the browser before your very eyes. Using Photoshop's interface as a reference, the animated cursor draws and paints the blocky multicoloured template in all its glory – which itself houses a wealth of other treats. Select a category such as 'About' and not only will you see an insightful blurb about the firm, but also uncover cool rollover menus that hide images and navigational links. ■

HIDE AND SEEK

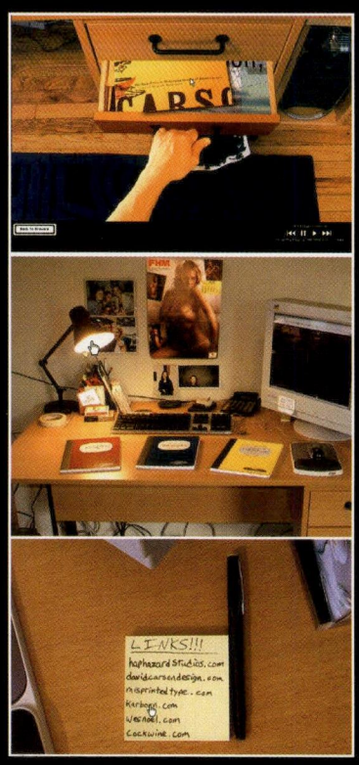
The overall look of this site wouldn't be that spectacular if it wasn't for the subtle touches which are thrown in. By incorporating a sprinkling of dynamic rollovers revealing graphical and interactive elements, the content is elevated to another level.

Name: Digitally Branded V3
URL: www.digitallybranded.com
Designed by: Digitally Branded

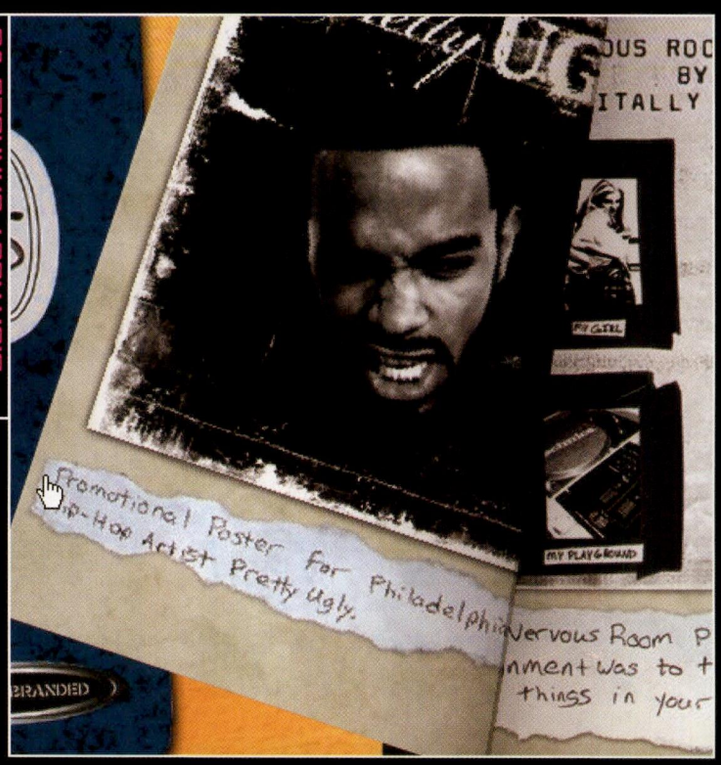
The Gallery has certainly seen its fair share of Windows desktop-styled home pages in its time, but this one takes a slightly different slant. Jumping out of the monitor and into the physical workspace, the desktop metaphor is taken more literally to give access to real-world notebooks, post-it-notes and all sorts of animated office items. It's all brought to life with some effective Flash work, with the highlights being the desk-drawer opening sequences and cool swoosh effects when zooming in on calendars etc. You also get a fully functioning micro MP3 player to provide the perfect mix of funky tunes hand-picked by the Digitally Branded guys. ■

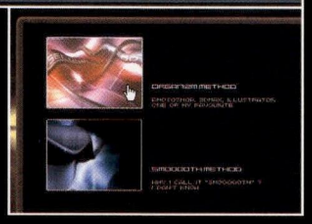
DESK-TOPPING

A less obvious beauty of this URL is the fusion of photography and Flash animation. To an extent, this saves some effort over drawing all the objects digitally and can arguably look more effective when done properly – so why not give it a try?



DIGITALLY BRANDED V3





Name: Second Method
URL: www.2methods.com/secondmethod
Designed by: Vitaly Onishenko

The home of new media wizard Vitaly Onishenko is fitting testament to how sophisticated and polished home pages have become. This is one author who has used his expertise in 3DMAX and obvious eye for sharp visuals to create a fetching portfolio of professional projects and animated experiments. An awesome rippling wave sequence apparently took the talented Russian just one hour to produce, although source files are kindly provided to make you feel less humble, and the supplied rendering tutorials are an eye opener. Just to flex his authoring muscles further, Vitaly has made the site fully customisable, including a choice of colour schemes, theme tunes and background artwork. ■

METHOD MAN

It's actually really refreshing to see someone responsible for such a great site being happy to share his secrets with keen visitors. The only way the Web is going to become a more technically rich place is if people learn by example – and it's up to the experts to lend a hand.

SHARED HOSTING | DEDICATED HOSTING
MANAGED HOSTING | DOMAIN NAMES

Choose
BUSINESS CLASS HOSTING

If you're serious about your online business, you can't afford to risk hosting your site with just anyone.

Virtual Internet has the experience, superior technology and technical support you should expect. Your server will be hosted in a safe, secure and resilient environment operating with maximum stability so you always present a professional image to your online customers.

When Power is Paramount
SHARED HOSTING from £45pm

- 1 x FTP account
- 10GB data transfer
- 1000MB space
- VI Control Panel

Firewall, Intrusion Detection, Daily Data Back Up, Load Balancing & Failover

For the highest level of security, reliability & data integrity

When You Need Control
DEDICATED HOSTING from £99pm

- 2.4Ghz processor
- 256MB RAM
- 40GB IDE HDD
- 10GB data transfer

Dedicated Cisco Firewall, Optional Ensim Control Panel

Giving root access to developers, resellers & small businesses

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING BUSINESS CLASS

VIRTUAL INTERNET
An Active ISP Company

Call for a quotation on 0800 013 1515 or visit www.vi.net

ECOMMERCE

eCOMMERCE

WEB TRADING

Profiting on the Web

Making cash from your Web site is a common goal throughout the wired world. From multinational conglomerates through to one man band craft-makers, the ideal is the same: converting visitors into buyers.

The eCommerce section in *Web Designer* is designed specifically for people aiming to turn clicks into pounds (or dollars, or yen). This means that every month, we provide essential information for the decision-makers who shape their businesses' future.

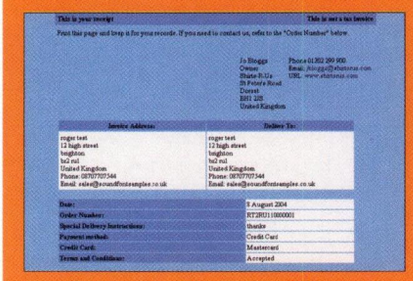
eBusiness is much more than selling your wares online, though, which is why we also strive to include tips and tricks for anyone who is keen to get their business or design portfolio online.

IN THIS ISSUE'S eCOMMERCE SECTION

Attract investment for your eBusiness.....92
Getting the right financial backing is important. We give you some sound and invaluable advice

eCommerce tutorial: part three 96
We wrap up this series by tackling five vital tasks, including opening the payment gateways

Web hosting deals 104
Pick yourself the perfect Web hosting deal with our comprehensive listings section



■ In this issue we guide you through the final stages of your eStore in Actinic Business

CONTACT US:

Do you have a topic you'd like to see covered in eCommerce? Get in touch at:

Web Designer
Highbury Entertainment Limited,
Paragon House,
St Peters Road,
Bournemouth, BH1 2JS

Email: webdesigner@paragon.co.uk

ATTRACT INVESTMENT FOR YOUR eBUSINESS

Need a leg-up to get your site off the ground? Find out how you can tempt investors to back your online business

Starting up an online business is often a tantalising prospect. There you are, armed with a red-hot idea, bags of enthusiasm and fantasies of becoming the next Lastminute.com or Amazon – ready to take on the world and start pulling in that first million dollar cheque.

But before you put down the deposit on the yacht, remember that you're going to need a fair bit of cash just to get the thing started. And it's no use raiding your jar of coppers either, because that's not going to cover it. So what are you going to do? Put it on the credit card? Ask some friends to help you out? And there's always the lottery... But unless you want to sit and wait for that day to arrive, you'd better think of another scheme to come up with the money to fund your project.

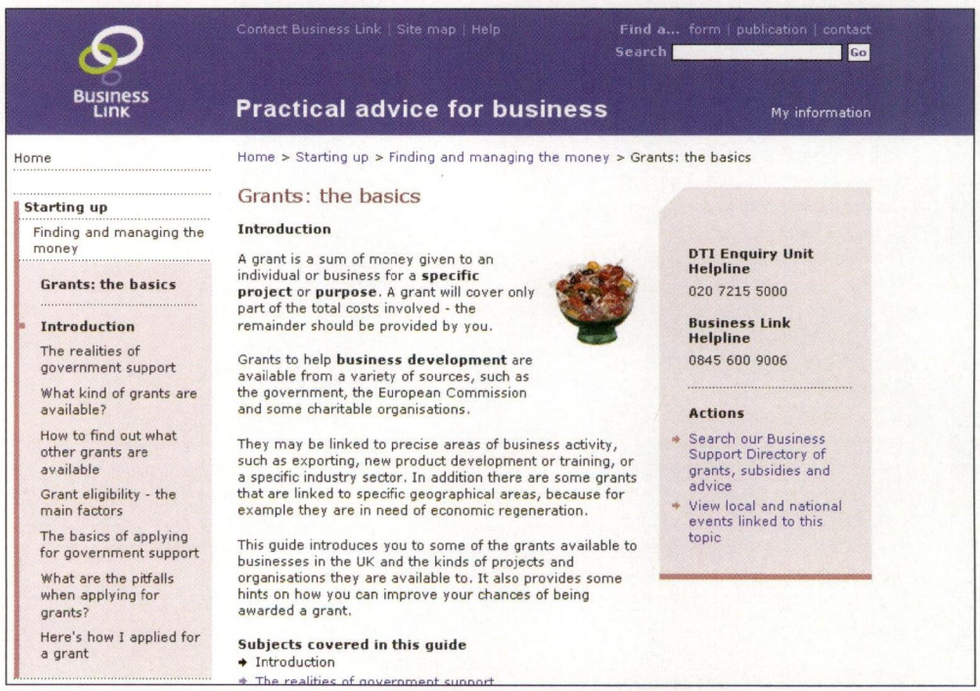
Traditionally one of the most popular ways for eBusinesses to fund their ventures is to attract investment. However, unless you're related to Richard Branson, you aren't going to get people coming up to you dishing out cash willy-nilly, so you'll have to learn how to attract the funding of investors. Read on to discover the best way to do this...

Important questions

Although you may be rubbing your hands in glee at the prospect of fleecing thousands of pounds from a big corporate investor, it's important to stop and think before you go looking for it. Ask yourself – 'do I really need this?' While investment is a good way to get your hands on capital quickly, it isn't the perfect solution for everyone. After all, you're never going to get something for nothing.

Before you approach an investment firm, you should make every effort to work out whether you could start the business yourself on a shoestring and perhaps look for more cash if it proves to be a solid business plan.

Of course, one of the most important questions you'll need to ask yourself is 'how much do I need to borrow?' Attracting investment is much like taking out a personal



■ The advice given in Business Link on finding financial support applies equally well to eCommerce firms and ordinary businesses

ONLINEWEATHER.COM

CASE STUDY

When Douglas Yule first decided to set up OnlineWeather.com in order to provide up-to-date weather information over the Web, the outlook seemed a little gloomy until he managed to secure some investment.

The Dumfries-based company wanted to develop a forecasting service that would reach out to individuals and let them know what the weather was up to. In order to fund a platform that had the ability to send updates to a variety of channels, Douglas needed a bit more than the loose change in his back pocket.

He managed to secure local investment from Dumfries-based businesses to fund the technology that was so vital to the success of the site. The investment paid off, and the company now employs eight people, generating almost two million page impressions per month, proving that with a shrewd business plan and the right knowledge about what to spend the money on, you'll go far.

"We wouldn't be in the position we're in today without Internet technology and the behind-the-scenes production database," says Yule. "It's an opportunity that any small business shouldn't miss."

Check out the site for yourself at www.onlineweather.com.

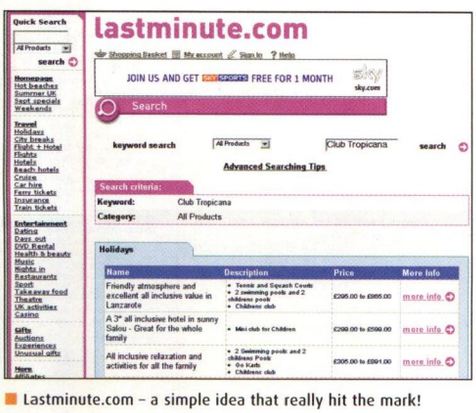
loan, in the sense that at some point your investors are going to want to see their money back. As a result, you should carefully consider what you could realistically afford to pay back down the track.

Where to get the cash

Once you've made up your mind you want to go for it and have decided on the amount of dough you want, it's time to start looking at your options. Luckily, there are several different ways in which you can get your hands on a decent amount of money, and we'll cover some of the better investment opportunities here.

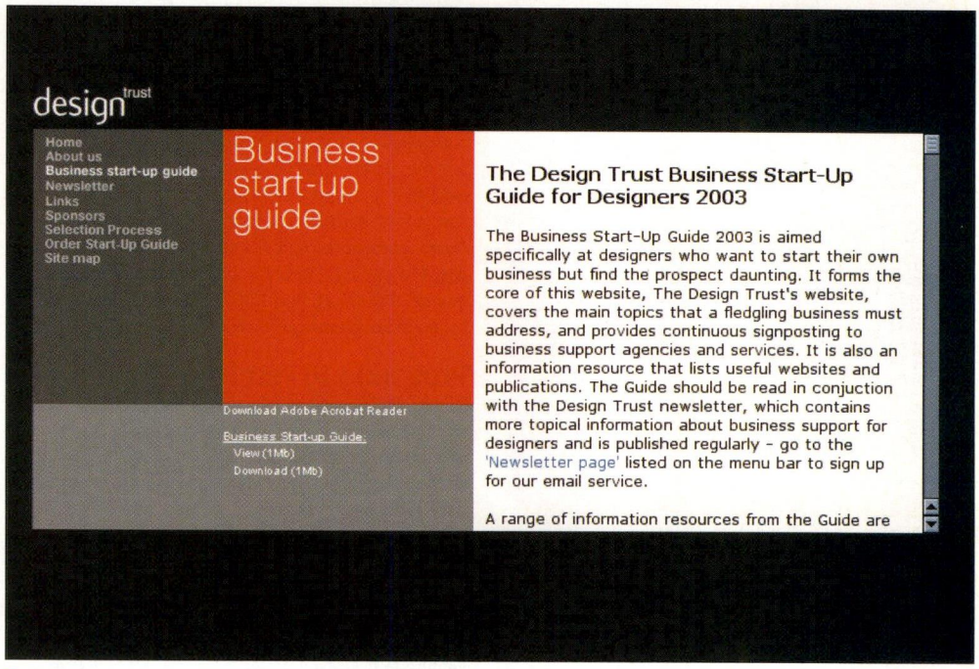
In the early days of the Web, many start-ups would look to venture capitalists for a short, sharp injection of cash. While some of this investment paid off for shrewd VC firms, many of these investors ended up with egg all over their well-groomed faces. This was largely because a lot of the early Net firms they excitedly threw money at had no sensible business plan and were doomed to failure from the start.

Largely as a result of this, venture capitalists these days are a lot shrewder when it comes to investing in online businesses, especially start-ups. The drawback of venture capitalism (or 'vulture capitalism' as it's often known) is that the investors normally exact a high price for the wads of cash they plough in. They usually demand hefty ownership of the company, seats on the board of directors



Lastminute.com – a simple idea that really hit the mark!

"CHECK OUT VC COMPANIES TO MAKE SURE THEY DON'T HAVE A HISTORY OF GULPING DOWN SMALL BUSINESSES FOR BREAKFAST"



The Design Trust Business Start-up Guide is aimed specifically at designers wanting to start their own business but needing a little help

and a large slice of the proceeds down the line. It pays to check out the track record of a VC company before you go knocking on its door to make sure it doesn't have a history of gulping down small businesses for breakfast. You can find out more about venture capitalism on the NVCA site at **www.nvca.org**.

Loving angels instead

Perhaps a safer option for new Internet companies is to seek the assistance of a 'business angel'. As you can gather from the name, they are a little less unscrupulous than venture capitalists, and are typically wealthy individuals who target start-ups and growth companies in return for equity in the firm. They have generally made their fortune as a result of their own entrepreneurial talents, and enjoy helping out emerging businesses in their own pursuits because they can remember being in the same boat themselves at one point.

Investments from business angels can vary from anything between £10,000 and £250,000, although in reality most sums they pay out are around the £25,000 mark. In addition to this first lump sum, many business angels will follow it up with regular cash fixes to keep the company on the right track.

Besides being able to offer cold, hard cash, business angels can also be of great benefit to you because of their years of business experience. Although most prefer to act as sleeping partners, you may find your business angel wants to take a more active role in the company, which can be a great help (or a hindrance depending on how you get on with them!).

While we're on the subject of taking money from kind-hearted souls, it's worth mentioning another option open to you – to borrow money from family members or friends. While it might be tempting to approach your dripping-rich granny or pal and get them to help out in the early stages, it's usually best to resist. After all, you don't want to end up causing lifelong rifts with your nearest and dearest just because you wanted a few grand to set up a dog food site.

Loan star

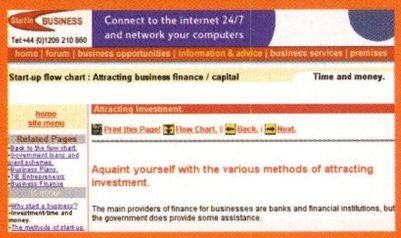
We all know that banks are good at dishing out money to one and all, and most will readily line your pockets in the short-term in return for interest-loaded repayments spread over the days, weeks, months and years that follow. While many banks offer appetising deals for new businesses and will provide decent capital for you, there are several reasons why you should think very carefully before signing on the dotted line.

Of course, things are generally fine if you're a model business and make all your payments on time and without a hitch. But in reality there aren't too many 'model businesses' around, and if things aren't going according to plan you risk your business and your house being taken away if you fail to keep up – or you could wind up being declared bankrupt.

FEATURE: ATTRACT INVESTMENT FOR YOUR eBUSINESS

ONLINE ASSISTANCE

WEB RESOURCES



NAME: .....START IN BUSINESS
URL: .....www.startinbusiness.com
The Information and Advice section of this site is full of, well, information and advice on starting in business – as you'd probably expect. There are plenty of details on how to attract investment to help you persuade the bank manager to part with the wonga.

NAME: .....GROWING BUSINESS
URL: .....www.growingbusiness.co.uk
You'll find wads of information about raising money for your eCommerce venture in the Growth Capital Centre aboard this magnificent business site. Here you can access information about venture capital, business angels and borrowing from banks, through the site's easy-to-use pages.

NAME: .....BUSINESS LINK
URL: .....www.businesslink.co.uk
This site is well worth bookmarking if you're eager to get your Web business off the ground and have about as many pennies to rub together as Michael Barrymore. There's plenty of useful advice on finding support for your business, which applies to eCommerce firms as well as ordinary companies.

WHAT NOT TO DO...

EXPERT ADVICE

DON'T WASTE VENTURE CAPITALISTS' TIME
Many VCs won't touch you if you want less than £100,000 – so in this case you'd be better off going to a business angel or bank. It can also be a good idea to approach a finance broker. They cater for all types of business and finance loans, including mortgages, leasing and venture finance.

DON'T IGNORE YOUR BUSINESS PLAN
A proper business plan is a great weapon in the battle to get cash from investors, as they'll see you're serious about your business, and can pay the bills and make the investor some money.

DON'T BE GREEDY
Be prepared to relinquish complete control over the business if you're dealing with VCs. Many will want a hefty chunk of it, plus control over your assets.

DON'T KID YOURSELF
The worst thing you can do is hype your business idea so much in your head that you make unrealistic promises to investors. You'll end up with egg on your face and no money in the bank.

DON'T FORGET TO RESEARCH
It's vital to approach the right companies! You'll find a list of the top 50 sources of finance in the UK at www.growingbusinessmag.co.uk/YawtzAxoa_nUvw.html.

DON'T GO IT ALONE
If you've drawn blanks with your approaches to banks etc, your local authorities will be happy to give advice on attracting funding for your venture.

DON'T CUT YOURSELF OFF FROM INVESTORS
Put yourself in your investors' shoes: think about what they'd want to see in a potential opportunity.

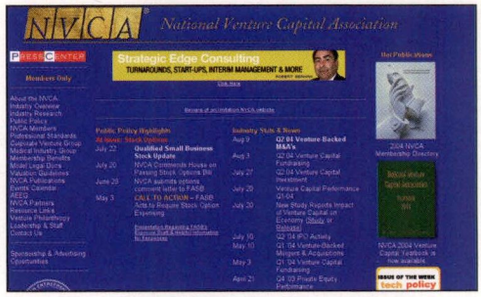
If all this depressing talk of unscrupulous bankers fills you with gloom, fear not, because there are still more options open to you. One of the few good things that the current UK government has done of late has been the willingness it has shown to offer support to fledgling eBusinesses in the form of grants and handouts.

There are several different avenues you can explore if you're looking for a grant for your site, but your first stop should probably be your UK local authority. These authorities normally have small business promotion schemes where financial assistance for eCommerce is available – this can be anything up to 50 per cent of the cost. A few useful links to try include Get Finance (**www.getfinance.co.uk/directory/Grants/Assisted_Areas/**), Business Link (**www.businesslink.gov.uk**) and The Design Trust (**www.thedesigntrust.co.uk/index.php?page=business**).

Preparing to receive

Despite the abundance of different investment opportunities out there, you shouldn't expect an easy ride when it comes to your potential backers dishing out the readies. Whatever option you choose, you're going to have to convince them you're a cause worth investing in and – more important to them – that you're good for the money. As a general rule, investors are far more likely to part with the loot if you've got a solid business plan which has been thoroughly researched and plotted out. This plan should outline the aims and objectives of your venture to give the investor reassurance that you've thought things through properly.

You should also show that you have the right experience, training and initiative to set up and maintain your business properly – which can be done simply by providing an up-to-date copy of your CV, provided it looks slick. Make sure you demonstrate your ability to produce accurate and current financial information to reassure your investors or the bank that you're in control of your business affairs and competent at handling money.



■ The NVCA site at **www.nvca.org** will tell you everything you ever wanted to know about venture capitalism but were too scared to ask!

If you're planning to take out a loan, ensure that you protect the repayments in case you're unable to meet the cost of borrowing from normal trade as the result of unforeseen circumstances. In order to do this, you may need to take out insurance to cover you and your staff in the event of accident or illness. You should also make sure that you're properly insured in the event of damage to any of your computer products.

When it comes to approaching a venture capital firm, it's vital to approach one that's interested in your sort of business. Some firms will only invest over £2m, while others look to do smaller deals, so it's essential that you get it right to avoid wasting everyone's time. It's also important to pick a VC that specialises in your area of business (ie eCommerce) because they have the most expertise in dealing with companies in this environment.

Once you've made your approach to your investor and haggled for a while over the amount they will let you borrow, you'll be ready to start accessing the cash. Just make sure you spend it wisely! ■

■ Do you harbour a secret ambition to be the next Amazon? All it takes is a red-hot idea, plenty of business-savvy and the right source of financial backing!

User~Friendly Hosting

Everyday — £9.99 per mth

.html, .cgi, .pl | 15 POP3 & Webmail Accounts | Frontpage 2002, CGI, SSI. 100MB Fast web space | Password Protected Pages

PHP — £14.99 per mth

.html, .php, .php4 | 15 POP3 & Webmail Accounts | PHP4, ODBC, PHPMyAdmin SSI. 100MB Fast web space | MySQL Database

ASP — £14.99 per mth

.html, .asp | 15 POP3 & Webmail Accounts | ASPEmail, ASPUpload, ASPEasyZip. 100MB Fast web space | Access Database

ASP.NET — £19.99 per mth

.html, .asp, .aspx | 15 POP3 & Webmail Accounts | .NET Framework v1.1, ServerObjects, 100MB Fast web space | Access Database

Streaming — £14.99 per mth

.rm, .wmv, .mp3 | Helix Powered, Windows & Real Media | Flash, Broadcast Support | 100MB Fast web space | 2GB Data Traffic per month

Cold Fusion — £24.99 per mth

.html, .cfm | 15 POP3 & Webmail Accounts | MX 6.1 Support, Custom Tag ready. 100MB Fast web space | Access & MySQL Database

Java+ — £29.99 per mth

.html, .jsp, servlets | 15 POP3 & Webmail Accounts | JSP, Shared Tomcat 4 Instance. 100MB Fast web space | MySQL Database

Java++ — £39.99 per mth

.html, .jsp, .do, servlets | 15 POP3 & Webmail Accounts | Private JVM, Tomcat Manager, Struts. 100MB Fast web space | MySQL Database
Private Tomcat Instance now available

- **Free expert technical support by telephone and email**
- **Unlimited email aliases & Graphical visitor statistics**
- **Antivirus & Antispam email support**
- **MySQL v4, MSSQL2000, Oracle 9i Databases available**

Ripe NCC Member

All prices exclude UK VAT.

2020 media

www.2020Media.com

0845 116 7453 11 Bear Street, London WC2H 7AS

TUTORIAL: eCOMMERCE
DEVELOP AN E-STORE IN ACTINIC BUSINESS

YOUR EXPERT: PETER BUICK

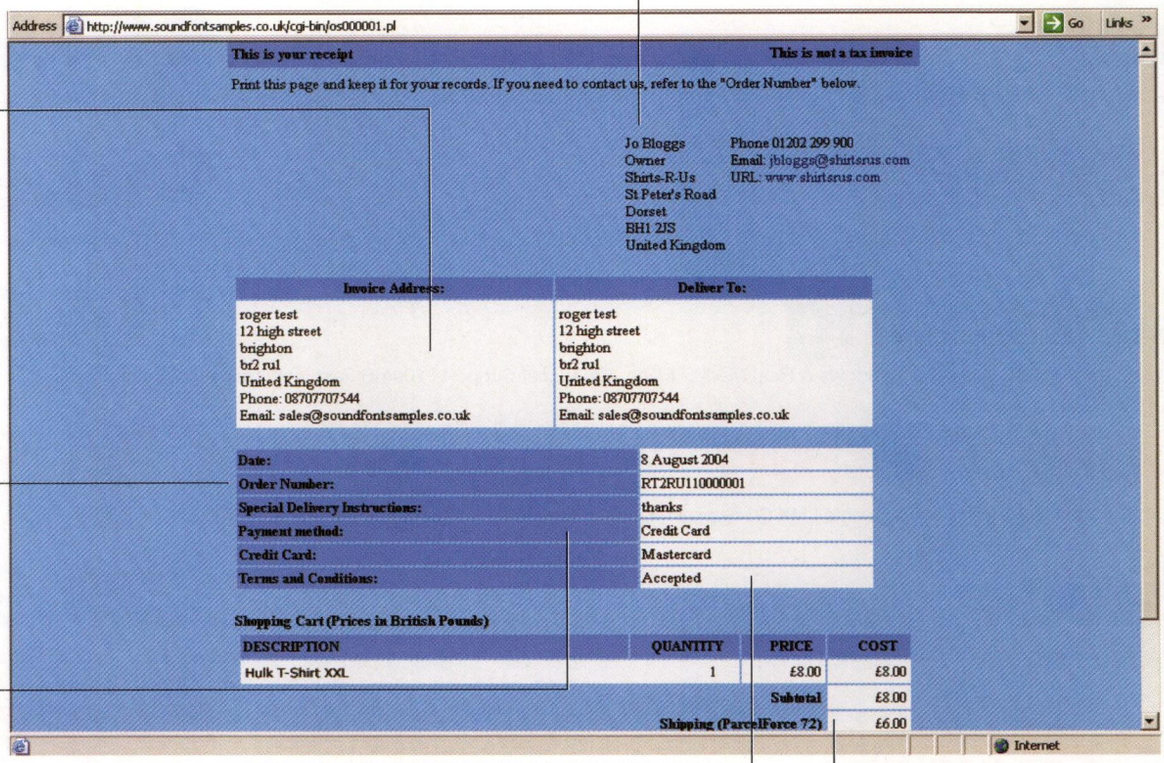
Peter has been involved in eCommerce since 1985. One of the original online entrepreneurs, he has run several publishing ventures and eCommerce emporiums. Freelancing as an eCommerce consultant and payment gateway integrator, Peter's latest ventures include alternative health and online training schools for the media industry.

Store details
The store details are included on the Order Confirmation page, so it makes sense if they are printed out

Customer details
The all-important customer details are entered here, with a separate delivery address if required. An order acknowledgement is automatically sent to the email address provided

Order reference
The store generates a unique order reference number so you can track the order payment and delivery

Payment method
The payment method is shown here – if a payment gateway was used or whether payment is to follow. The Reports feature can list any outstanding payments due



Terms and conditions
If you've forced them to tick the box to agree to your terms and conditions, their agreement is confirmed here

Shipping details
The invoice total includes the shipping option they selected from the available methods you've set for their region

THE BRIEF

TUTORIAL OBJECTIVE
Add the finishing touches to your store with delivery and payment options

SKILL LEVEL

TIME REQUIRED
Two hours

ON THE DISC
eCommerce/Tutorials: site1 [folder]

PART THREE

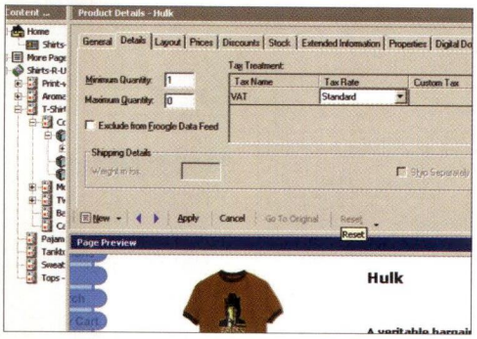
DEVELOP AN E-STORE IN ACTINIC BUSINESS

Having added our products and options, it's time to open the payment gateways and use the back end of our e-store

Having the right products and making them look good is only part of the eCommerce challenge. We still have five of the hardest tasks to perform:

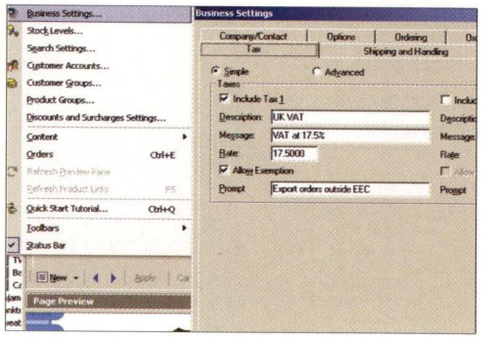
1. Finalise the pricing with tax options, like VAT, which might be different for different territories (eg VAT-exempt exports)
2. Devise delivery/carriage rates, which again may be international
3. Implement the payment gateways
4. Give people the confidence to buy from you! This will include legal requirements such as a Privacy policy and trading standards in the client's locale
5. Implement the back-end infrastructure for checking, verifying, processing and following up orders

Most of this is technically quite easy in Actinic, so let's get stuck in! But note that VAT, tax, export and legal regulations can change regularly. It's vital to keep up to date with the rates and policies affecting your business. All rates shown are for illustration only. ■



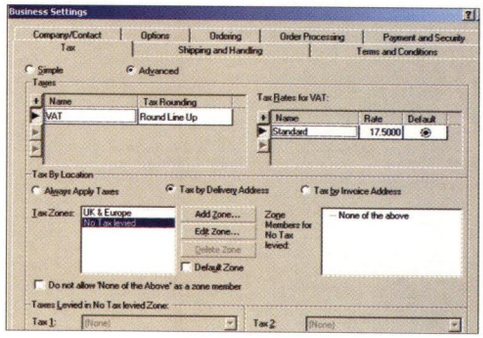
1 DEALING WITH PRICING AND TAX

If you're not VAT registered, you should plan for it. Some customers will expect it. And for (non-EEC) export orders, including VAT will make you 17.5% dearer than VAT-registered suppliers. For UK consumers it's best to show VAT inclusive, but for export and trade customers, that would look expensive.



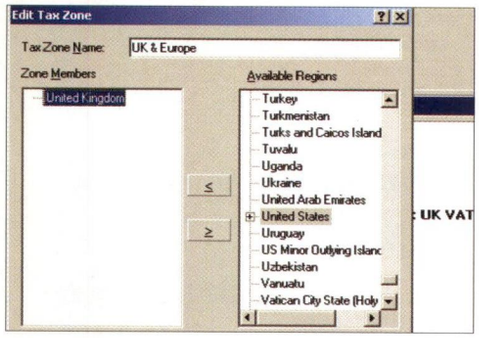
2 TRANSATLANTIC INFLUENCES

The View>Business Settings>Tax tab houses the Tax settings. Simple mode is really only useful for single zone sales. In Advanced mode, a lot more options are available. Our Actinic came with a strong USA zone and tax bias. We opted to delete them and start from scratch, but edit them if you prefer.



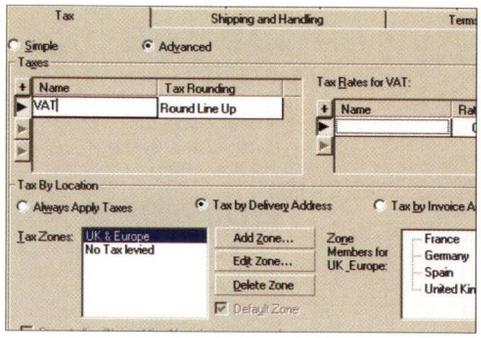
3 ZONES AND RATES

It's easiest to add the zones you cover first; then the tax rates required become obvious. The zones are comprised of regions. For instance, Europe would include France, Germany and so on. Actinic ships with a comprehensive list, but you can add regions manually from the Advanced>Locations item.



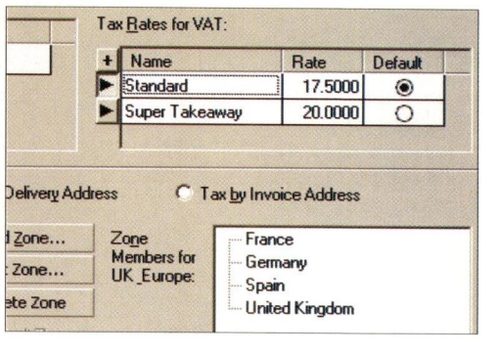
4 ADDING A ZONE

Click the Add Zone button. Name your zone appropriately in the top field. Click on entries in the right-hand list and use the arrow keys to build your zone list in the left-hand list. A region can only belong to one zone, so you may want to pre-plan your categorisation.



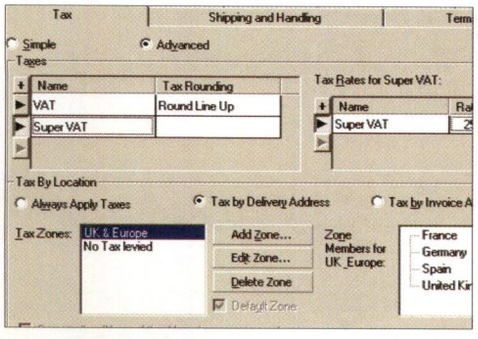
5 SETTING ZONE PROPERTIES

Each zone can have its own tax properties. Type the tax name in the top left Taxes field. The Tax Rates For... and Taxes Levied In... drop-down menus will change in sympathy with it. The decimal point handling used in the percentage calculation is also set here (ie rounding).



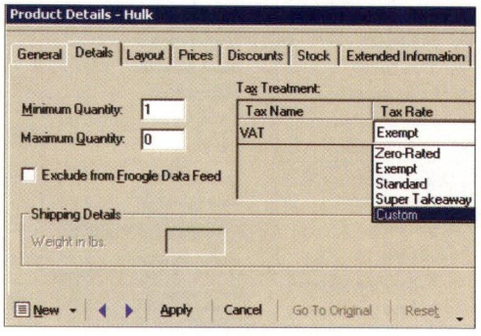
6 SETTING THE TAX RATE

The tax rate is set in the right-hand Tax Rates For... field. If you ever need to set different tax rates (other than exempt and standard) per product, you can add a row to the Tax Rates For... field. For additional VAT tiers see the following steps.



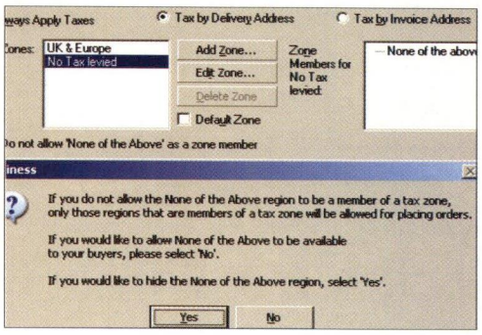
7 TWO-TIER TAX RATES

If you regularly need a two-tier tax policy, you can included additional rates by clicking the Plus sign in the top left Taxes field to create a row. Right-click on a row to get the option to delete it. To edit a field, simply double-click on it.



8 EXEMPTIONS AND CUSTOM CASES

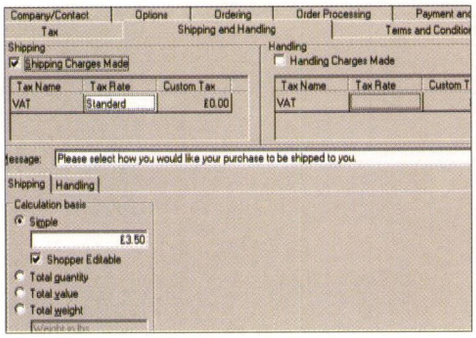
If you have occasional tax scenarios, you can set a custom tax value in the Products window, Detail tab. This might be useful for individually listed second-hand items where VAT is only on the profit. Exempt products (eg books) at a zero rate are included by default.



9 TAX RATES AND LOCATION

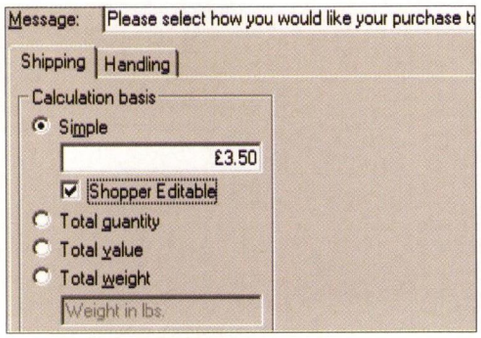
Where the delivery and invoice addresses are in different zones, there can be issues on which tax rate to apply. This is something you need to clarify with your local tax/VAT office. Note you can also exclude dealing with certain zones entirely, which can reduce fraud or simplify tax.

TUTORIAL: eCOMMERCE
DEVELOP AN E-STORE IN ACTINIC BUSINESS



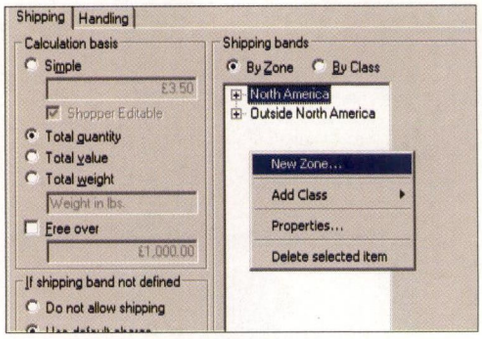
10 DELIVERY OPTIONS AND ZONES

Delivery is a major issue with e-shops. You can't afford to undercharge, but carriage can make an order prohibitively expensive. You might want to subsidise smaller orders to gain customer loyalty, while others use carriage to make up for lost profit on loss leader products.



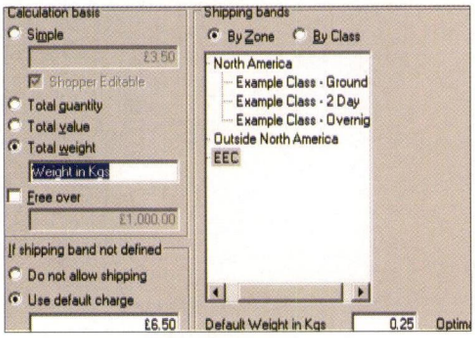
11 FLAT RATE SHIPPING

The simplest shipping is Simple mode. This is a single flat rate which disregards zones, so international sellers need to beware. For local single country supplies, digital downloads, or for light items and pricing that can absorb international carriage costs, it's super-easy.



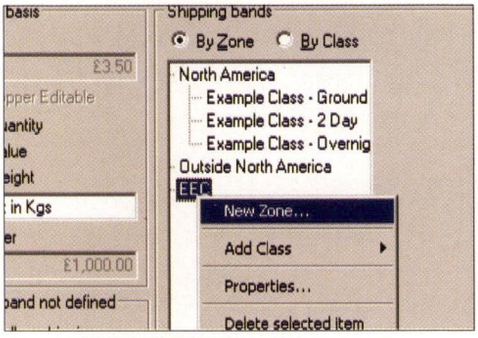
12 SHIPPING BY QUANTITY

If everything you sell has a similar weight (eg ink cartridges), perhaps this is for you. It also works well when you want to reward bulk purchasers. Right-click to add a zone to the list. For maximum carriage flexibility, the zones created elsewhere aren't used here.



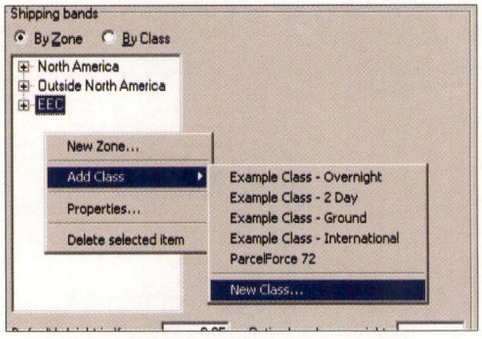
15 CARRIAGE BY WEIGHT

The most obvious method, but relies on accurate product weights and allowance for outer packaging. With multiple zones and shipping methods, it can get complicated. And many clients want to know the carriage before ordering. Edit the 'Weight in...' text to change between lbs and Kgs units.



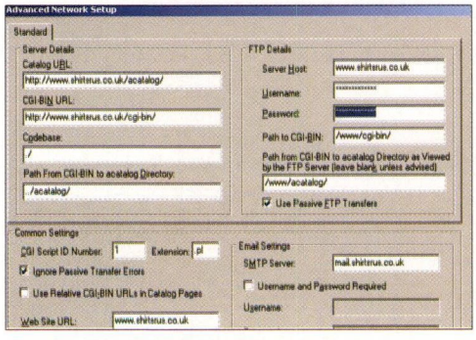
16 SETTING UP WEIGHTS

Right-click in the Shipping Bands list in order to add a new zone. Use the arrow buttons to build the region locations for that zone, and name it in the top field. Next, we have to add some delivery methods (classes) for each zone.



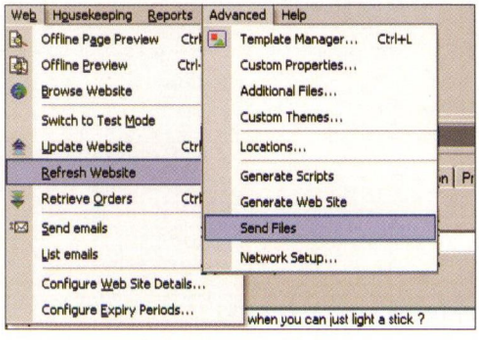
17 SETTING UP DELIVERY CLASSES

Right-click in the Shipping Bands list and add a new class from the bottom of the sub-menu which appears. Click on the Plus sign of the Band table and add the values for each weight band. For missing shipping bands, you can set a default cost or refuse delivery.



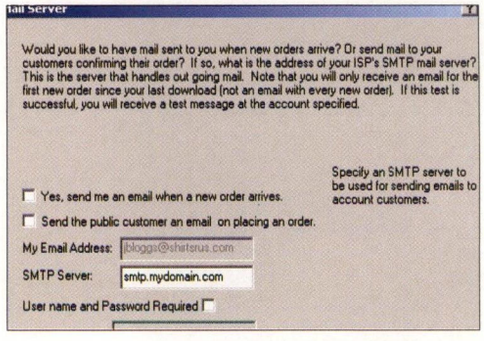
20 CHECKING NETWORK SETTINGS

Even after running the wizard, it's wise to check the Web site settings under Advanced>Network settings – particularly the email settings, required for order acknowledgments. Also ensure that you've set the Admin email from View>Business Settings>Ordering.



21 UPLOADING YOUR E-SHOP

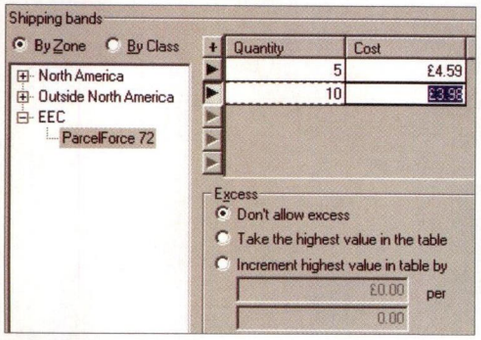
If you want to use Actinic's own hosting, use the Convert button on the Network Settings panel to create the necessary host files before uploading it to them. For your own hosting, just use the Send Files item from the Advanced menu. Use Web>Refresh Website if you encounter errors.

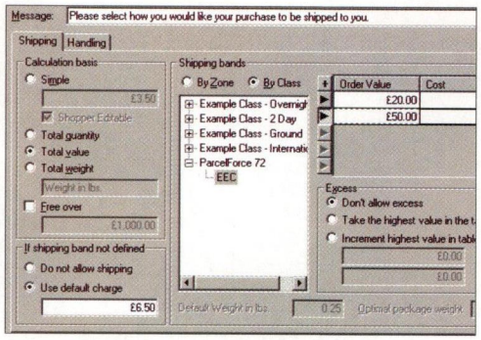


22 CHECK YOUR SITE'S CONFIGURATION

When you attempt a test order, ensure you receive no errors, and check store owner and customer emails for spelling. Most errors will be path related. Use the Configure Settings wizard and Network Settings Test button repeatedly. Leave the SMTP server blank if necessary when you first upload the site.

TUTORIAL: eCOMMERCE
DEVELOP AN E-STORE IN ACTINIC BUSINESS



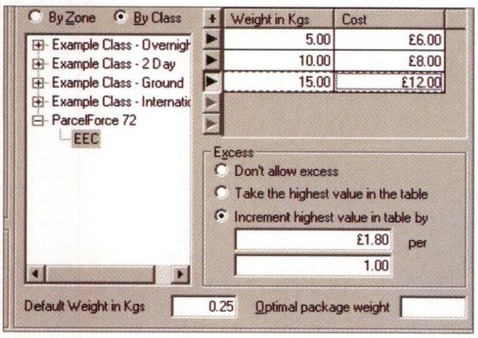


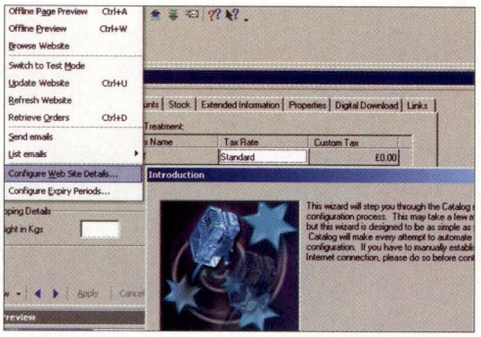
13 QUANTITY ZONE AND CLASSES

Next, you need to add a class to the zone by right-clicking on it. A class is essentially a delivery method. You can view by zone or class, but the two are mutually dependent. Click the Plus sign to add a Quantity band row and set its cost.

14 CARRIAGE BY ORDER VALUE

'By order value' works in a similar way to 'by weight', except the order value is used to determine the carriage bands in the class. A carriage discount, or economic price point, on order value can be a good way to encourage larger orders. But make sure you don't penalise customers placing small orders.



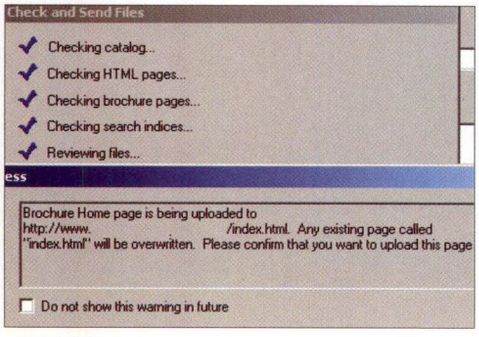


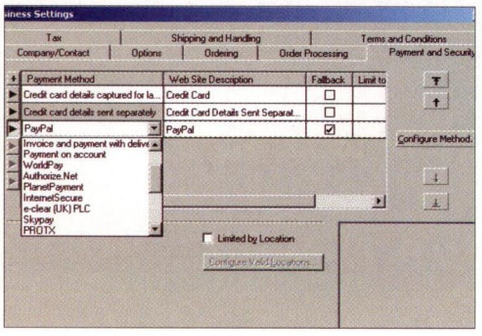
18 HANDLING EXCESS WEIGHTS

If the order weight exceeds your shipping bands, you can refuse delivery or charge a pro rata rate, or fix it at the highest point. You can also set a default weight for any products you haven't specified. Optimal Weight sets a maximum weight per parcel, and splits the order and re-costs accordingly.

19 PREPARING TO UPLOAD YOUR SITE

Use the Actinic wizard to detect your host settings. On a fresh install, it will ask for your site URL and login details. If you're uploading a preloaded site (like the one on the CD), tick the top box to force new login details or if the site has moved since testing.





23 SHOP DOORWAYS

Actinic wanted to replace our root index page with its link to the shop. Fair enough, but we wanted to keep our home page and add the link ourselves. Luckily, it warns you of the impending overwrite. E-shops are bad at gaining search engine ranking – and keeping your own home page is a good start.

24 SETTING UP PAYMENTS

Payment methods are set up from View>Business Settings>Payment and Security. You can add more methods by clicking the Plus sign on the table. Click the arrow to select the method from the sub-menu. Click to edit the description the customer will see, if required.

Freezone Internet

E-commerce: EShop
The affordable ready-to-go solution

Just £29.90 per month & no set-up fee*

- Don't miss out! Some 20 million British consumers will shop via the internet in 2004 and will spend £17bn online**
- Small business without a web designer or IT department?
- Now you can get your products online and on sale in one easy action
- Hosting, e-commerce and web site are all included in one exceptionally priced package
- Let us take care of all the behind the scenes stuff so you can get on with running your business.

Hosting, web site & e-commerce

ADSL from £15.99 per month

0845 117 0366
www.freezone.co.uk

*Excluding VAT @ 17.5%
EShop £299.90* or £29.90*/m first year only,
£199.90*/pa or £19.90*/m thereafter.
**Source IMRG

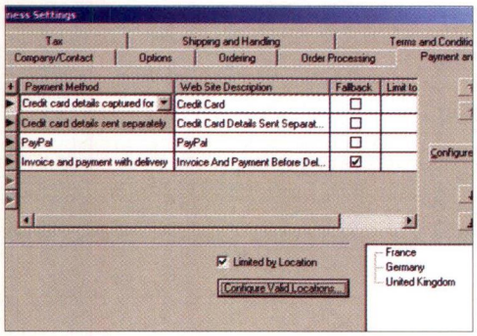
order online: www.switchmedia.co.uk
sales hotline: 0151 236 9111

switchmedia

Hosting accounts carry £9.99 one off set-up fee and must be paid for annually in advance. All prices exclude VAT.

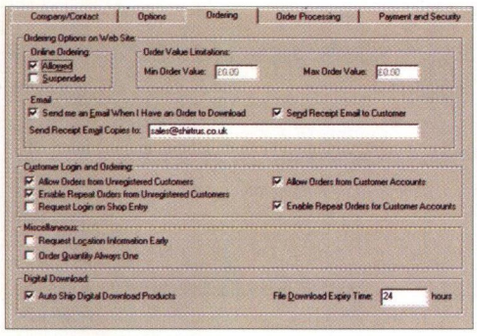
25 CONFIGURING PAYMENT DETAILS

Highlight a payment method and click the Configure Method button to set gateway details such as your merchant number. The number of fields will vary with each gateway, depending on what info they require. The Fallback option is used when no other method is allowed in their region.



26 RESTRICTION HIGH RISK REGIONS

To help prevent fraud (especially for electronic items) you can exclude regions from specific payment methods – for example, credit cards from low national income countries. Highlight the method, hit Configure Valid Locations and add low risk countries to the list. The rest can be manually processed.



27 ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Electronically delivered goods can be released automatically once payment is confirmed. Paypal also supports this. The option is enabled from each Product window's Digital Download tab and globally from Business Settings>Ordering. Actinic does download link encryption/expiration automatically.

IN DETAIL: UPLOADING AND HOSTING

Moving the e-store from your hard drive to the Web is what it's all about, so let's explore some hosting issues

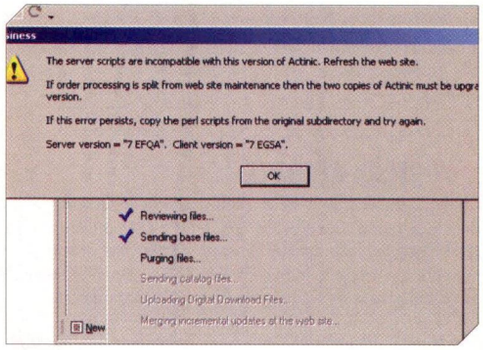
So far we've authored and tested our store from our computer hard drive. We haven't been able to test interactive features like cart ordering. But the time has come to see how it works in the real world.

Actinic offers its own chargeable Web hosting, but you can host it almost anywhere that has CGI bin and Perl support. It uses direct database coding, so DNS server database support isn't necessary. Your customers will need JavaScript and cookie support enabled on their browsers.

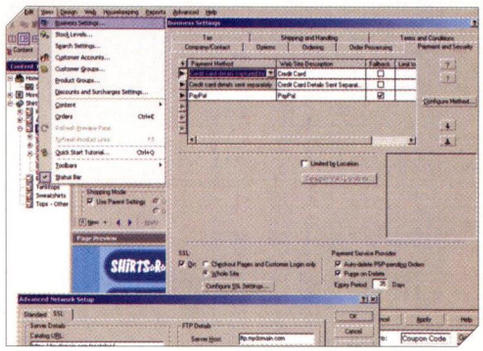
For secure Web ordering with live credit card numbers, you need a server with SSL support so you can use https links; many hosts provide a 'shared' SSL certificate. You can also use payment gateways. They have their own SSL facility to process the order. Even Paypal provides this, with no merchant fee, and if you have a credit card you can open a Paypal account. Actinic supports several gateways, including Paypal, NoChex, HSBC, Streamline, WorldPay, SecPay, Netbanx and Net4You. Offline ordering, such as invoicing, on-account and COD are also supported.

If you want to capture and process credit card numbers directly, it warns if you aren't using an SSL URL connection. The SSL connection is set via View>Business Settings> Payment and Security. Depending on hosting, using SSL for the whole site may simplify things and offer customer reassurance, but it causes slightly more load on the server.

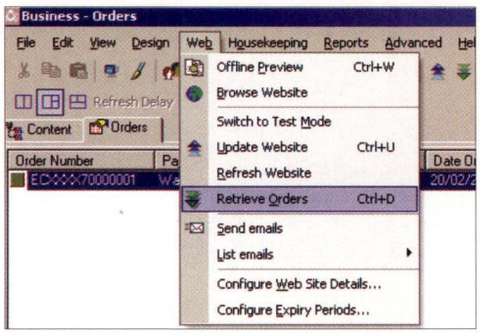
Uploading the shop is fairly straightforward. The Actinic wizard is quite good at deriving the required settings once it has your FTP login details, but we found it needed help with some directory paths. Because it had failed to upload on one attempt, it kept complaining about 'out of sync' files – but a full Refresh upload sorted that out. ■



■ That sinking feeling as your e-store fails to upload? The answer is all in the Refresh, though

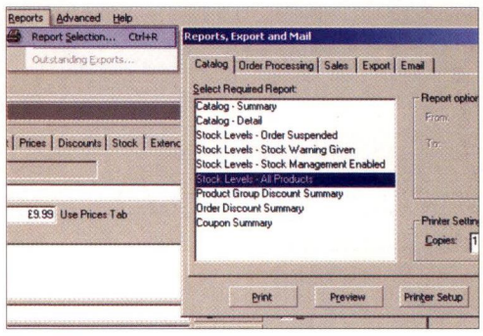


■ SSL connections can be set sitewide, or just for payment and login. If you use a payment gateway, you won't need your own SSL facility



28 BACK-END ORDER PROCESSING

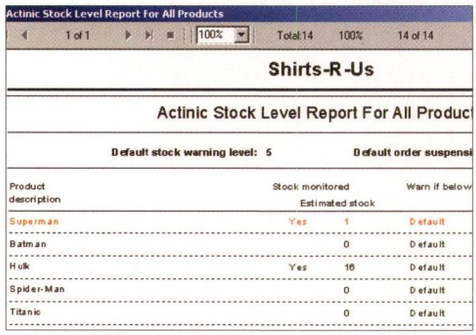
The other half of payment is the order processing. You can opt to receive new order emails from Business Settings> Ordering. Web>Retrieve Orders downloads orders from the Web shop to your local machine. Order management is then done from the View>Orders tab, or main window Orders tab.



29 REPORTS AND MARKETING

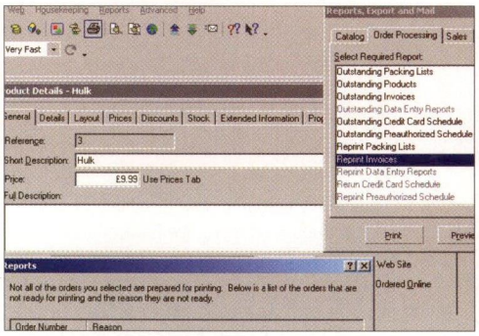
Knowing how well your e-store is doing is essential business information. You can see which products are selling well, or not, and monitor your stock levels. You can also review your key customers and try to make your infrequent customers more regular. Reports even have their own menu.

TUTORIAL: eCOMMERCE
DEVELOP AN E-STORE IN ACTINIC BUSINESS



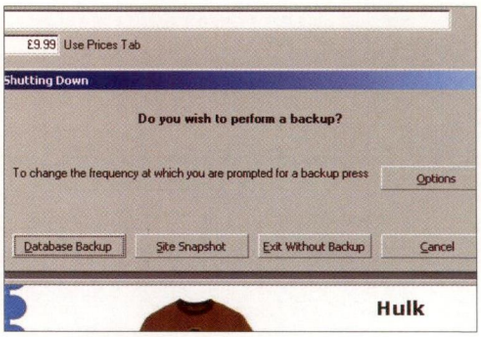
30 STOCK REPORTS

Reviewing your stock levels and flow is possible using the Stock Report. The Preview generates a Custom window (which prevents file saving) for onscreen viewing, or you can print out the report to hard copy or export a CSV file. Printing a PDF file is another way of sharing reports electronically.



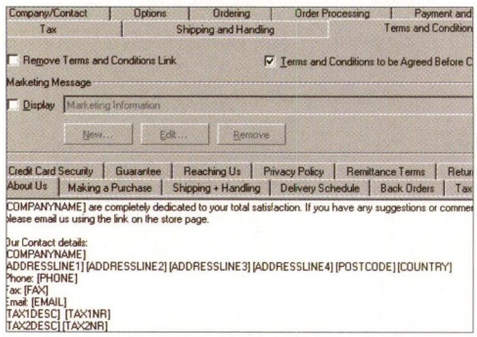
31 MORE REPORTS

On the Catalog tab, the Coupon Report is useful for monitoring marketing campaigns. Sales Analysis and the others speak for themselves. The Order Processing Report tab houses outstanding invoices and packing lists. A useful feature is the Email tab Order Summary – use it to send a shipping update.



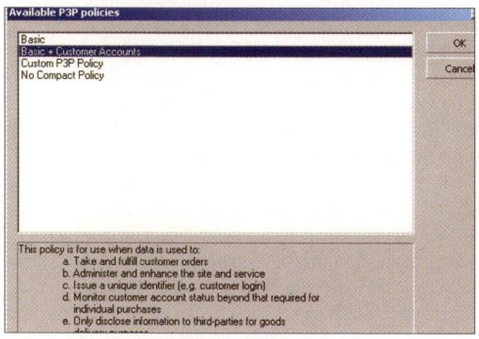
32 DATABASE BACKUP

Don't underestimate backing up your e-store (and orders). You'll spend a lot of time fine-tuning your store – and hackers love spoiling eCommerce almost as much as embarrassing governments. Whenever you quit Actinic, it asks to perform a database backup. Should it need to ask!



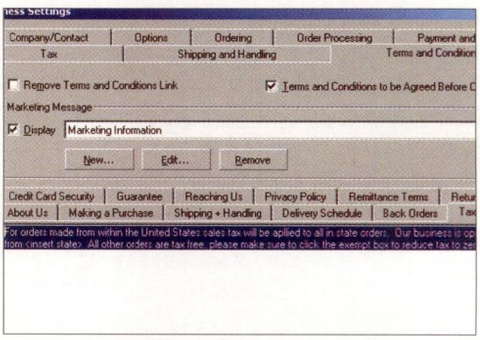
33 TERMS AND CONDITIONS

In the UK it's actually a legal requirement to show your terms of business and Privacy policy on your Web site. It's also eCommerce best practice. Actinic has tried to make this as easy as possible by formularising the information – although it doesn't provide real-world examples for many of them.



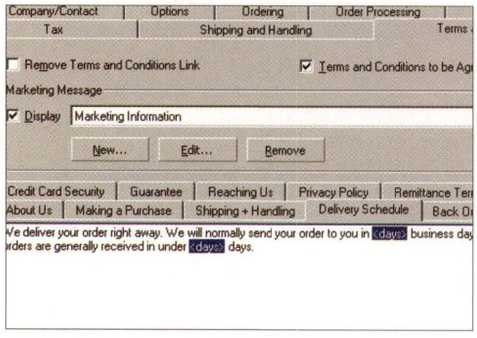
34 P3P PRIVACY POLICY

Actinic warns during uploading if you don't have a (compact) 'p3p' (Platform for Privacy) policy yet – used by some browsers to qualify if cookies should be allowed from a site. The policies don't cater for online marketing, leaving you to create a custom document. See **www.w3.org/P3P/** for tools.



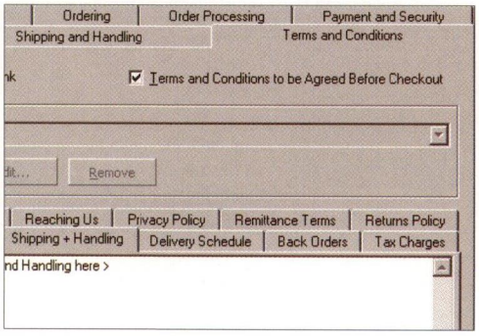
35 REVIEWING THE DEFAULT TAB

You need to review all 12 of the Terms and Conditions tabs. Some have spaces to fill in, some are blank. And you'll need to agree with what's stated. Values in square brackets take values from other fields automatically (such as company name). Tax charges for instance, require a USA state by default!



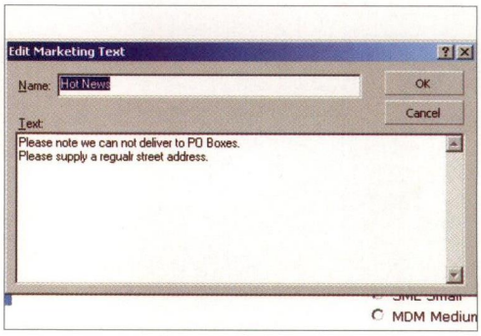
36 MISSING CONDITIONS

Empty conditions include shipping and handling, remittance terms and your returns policy; leaving an empty condition will look more dubious than not having one. The guarantee, delivery schedule and back order policy will most likely need amending to suit your company.



37 AGREEING TO TERMS

If your terms are particularly important to the order (eg custom-printed products or opened software, which can't be returned), you can use the top-right checkbox to ensure the customer has read and agreed to the terms by having to tick them at checkout.



38 A WORD FROM OUR SPONSORS

You can also add an additional information alert during checkout using the Marketing Message option. This could just be a thank you message, important delivery information or trading times during holidays. You can have several of them prepared, ready for holiday times or seasonal offers.

order online: www.switchmedia.co.uk
sales hotline: 0151 236 9111

switchmedia

Hosting accounts carry £9.99 one off set-up fee and must be paid for annually in advance. All prices exclude VAT.

Sponsored by
HOSTWAY THE HOSTING COMPANY
0808 018 1880 www.hostway.co.uk

PICK THE PERFECT WEB HOSTING DEAL

FROM ECOMMERCE TO PERSONAL HOSTING, FIND THE HOSTING SERVICE THAT'S PERFECT FOR YOUR NEEDS WITH OUR COMPREHENSIVE ROUND-UP OF DEALS

Picking a Web host is a decision often left to the end of the Web creation process. Let's face it, we've all been guilty of concentrating so much on the design of the site that we've ignored the importance of signing up for a good hosting deal. Hosting is of the utmost importance, though – after all, this is where your site will be housed, so it's imperative that you find a service that not only provides you with the services you need, but also with good reliability.

That's why we've scoured the Net to find a selection of relevant deals that should help you ascertain the service that's perfect for you. The aim in compiling this guide is to allow you to see the different types of packages available and help you glean some idea of the costs you're likely to face. While we haven't included every single deal offered by the firms listed, we have included the products we think are most relevant to our readers.

Our listings contain the categories we think will be most relevant to you. With this in mind, we hope we can help you pick the hosting deal that will suit you best – don't just jump in and sign up on the basis of the figures you see on these pages, though. We recommend using the information below to pick out a handful of firms that cater for your needs. The next step is to contact each directly to discuss your requirements further.

KEEPING UP TO DATE

While we try and ensure that all the information in our listings is up to date, the occasional error does creep through. If you would like to update your current details, drop an email to **webdesigner@paragon.co.uk** with the information you would like changed.

NAME AND URL	PACKAGE	PHONE NUMBER	COST PER YEAR	WEB SPACE	MONTHLY BANDWIDTH	POP3 ACCOUNTS	FRONTPAGE EXTENSIONS	DATABASE SUPPORT	SHOPPING CART	VIRUS FILTER	FIREWALL	PHONE SUPPORT	EMAIL SUPPORT	WEB CONTROL PANEL	SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT
1&1 (www.oneandone.co.uk)	Starters	08708 503 305	£26.06	25MB		20	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
1&1 (www.oneandone.co.uk)	Home (Linux)	08708 503 305	£70.36	500MB	3Gb	100	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
1&1 (www.oneandone.co.uk)	Home (MS)	08708 503 305	£84.46	500MB	3Gb	100	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
1&1 (www.oneandone.co.uk)	Business (Linux)	08708 503 305	£126.76	1GB	10Gb	300	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
1&1 (www.oneandone.co.uk)	Business (MS)	08708 503 305	£140.86	1GB	10Gb	300	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
1&1 (www.oneandone.co.uk)	Professional (Linux)	08708 503 305	£239.56	2GB	40Gb	1000	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
1&1 (www.oneandone.co.uk)	Professional (MS)	08708 503 305	£281.86	2GB	40Gb	1000	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
123 reg (www.123-reg.co.uk)	Regular	0900 11 22 123	45.87	250Mb	10	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
123 reg (www.123-reg.co.uk)	Xtra	0900 11 22 123	269.87	500Mb	25	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
123-reg (www.123-reg.co.uk)	123-reg xtra	0900 2211123	£59.88	500Mb	2Gb	25	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
2020Media (www.2020media.com)	Everyday	0845 166 7456	£100	100Mb	2Gb	Unlimited	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2020Media (www.2020media.com)	PHP	0845 166 7456	£150	100Mb	2Gb	Unlimited	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2020Media (www.2020media.com)	JAVA Tomcat	0845 166 7456	£175	100Mb	2Gb	Unlimited	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2020Media (www.2020media.com)	Coldfusion	0845 166 7456	£250	100Mb	2Gb	Unlimited	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4d hosting (www.4dhosting.com)	Bronze Package	0845 166 8386	£40.00	10Mb	500Mb	2	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
4d hosting (www.4dhosting.com)	Gold Package	0845 166 8386	£79.99	50Mb	2Gb	50	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
4d hosting (www.4dhosting.com)	Titanium Package	0845 166 8386	£149.99	500Mb	5Gb	500	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4d hosting (www.4dhosting.com)	Reseller Package	0845 166 8386	£299.99	1Gb	10Gb	1000	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9NetAvenue (www.9netave.uk.net)	Starter	0870 8726560	99	50	1.5Gb	10	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9NetAvenue (www.9netave.uk.net)	Professional	0870 8726560	199	100	2.5Gb	25	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9NetAvenue (www.9netave.uk.net)	Corporate	0870 8726560	399	500	5Gb	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BeamHost (www.beamhost.co.uk)	Economy	0871 277 9827	£120	1Gb	50Gb	300	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cheapnet (www.cheapnet.co.uk)	ISP For Small Businesses	0870 516 8160	£96	Unlimited	10Gb	Unlimited	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Christian Technology Ltd (www.christiantechnology.co.uk)	Base Package	0870 742 0530	£94	25Mb	1Gb	Unlimited	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Clara.net (www.clara.net)	Clarahost Lite	0845 355 1000	29.99	10	1Gb	10	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Clara.net (www.clara.net)	Clarahost Advanced	0845 355 1000	699	500	30Gb	200	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CWCS Managed Hosting (www.cwcs.co.uk)	CWCS Entry Package	0870 703 1000	£120	100Mb	1.5Gb	5	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
DataGate (www.datagate.co.uk)	Exchange Hosting	08000 19 98 19	From £204	100Mb	Unlimited	0	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
DataGate (www.datagate.co.uk)	Unix Shared Business Hosting	08000 19 98 19	£249	200Mb	6Gb	100	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Datex (www.datex.net)	Level1	0800 652 2110	185	50	1gb	10	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Datex (www.datex.net)	Level2	0800 652 2110	259	100	2gb	25	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Datex (www.datex.net)	Level3	0800 652 2110	330	200	3Gb	50	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Datex (www.datex.net)	Level4	0800 652 2110	369	300	4Gb	80	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Datex (www.datex.net)	Level5	0800 652 2110	409	400	5Gb	120	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Datex (www.datex.net)	Level6	0800 652 2110	549	600	6Gb	200	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dedicated Servers (www.dedicated-servers.co.uk)	Linux entry	0870 333 0365	99/month	40gb	30Gb	variable	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dedicated Servers (www.dedicated-servers.co.uk)	Windows entry	0870 333 0365	199/month	40gb	30Gb	variable	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Donhost (www.donhost.co.uk)	Reseller Unix	0870 7414151	£470	Unlimited	20Gb	Unlimited	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Donhost (www.donhost.co.uk)	Reseller Windows	0870 7414151	£587.50	Unlimited	20Gb	Unlimited	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Donhost (www.donhost.co.uk)	Enterprise Plan	0870 7414151	£105.75	100Mb	2Gb	20	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Donhost (www.donhost.co.uk)	Commerce Plan	0870 7414151	£211.50	250Mb	5Gb	50	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗

- Dependable Shared Hosting
- Flexible Dedicated Server Solutions
- Domain Name Registration
- 24hr Professional Support

- Windows 2003, Linux Redhat Custom, CFMX
- Hostway automated SiteBuilder
- Advanced SiteControl Administration
- Merchant Manager Ecommerce Solution

NAME AND URL	PACKAGE	PHONE NUMBER	COST PER YEAR	WEB SPACE	MONTHLY BANDWIDTH	POP3 ACCOUNTS	FRONTPAGE EXTENSIONS	DATABASE SUPPORT	SHOPPING CART	VIRUS FILTER	FIREWALL	PHONE SUPPORT	EMAIL SUPPORT	WEB CONTROL PANEL	SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT
Donhost (www.donhost.co.uk)	Designer Plan	0870 7414151	£141	100Mb	2Gb	20	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Donhost (www.donhost.co.uk)	Developer Plan	0870 741415	£305.50	250Mb	5Gb	50	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Dziner Solutions (www.dzinersolutions.co.uk)	Windows Shared	n/a	44.99	100	2Gb	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Dziner Solutions (www.dzinersolutions.co.uk)	Unix Shared Starter	n/a	19.99	50	1Gb	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Dziner Solutions (www.dzinersolutions.co.uk)	Unix Shared Standard	n/a	44.99	100	2Gb	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Dziner Solutions (www.dzinersolutions.co.uk)	Unix Shared Premier	n/a	79.99	200	3Gb	200	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
eHosting (www.ehosting.co.uk)	Home & Business 200 Account	0161 236 2241	£49.99	200Mb	10Gb	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
EliteUKServe (eliteukserve.net)	Business Kick Start Linux	0871 717 0390	49	50	3Gb	20	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
EliteUKServe (eliteukserve.net)	Business Kick Start Windows	0871 717 0390	75	50	3Gb	20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
EliteUKServe (eliteukserve.net)	Business Standard Linux	0871 717 0390	99	100	3Gb	100	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
EliteUKServe (eliteukserve.net)	Windows	0871 717 0390	125	100	3Gb	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
EliteUKServe (eliteukserve.net)	Business Enterprise Linux	0871 717 0390	199	250	5Gb	250	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
EliteUKServe (eliteukserve.net)	Business Enterprise Windows	0871 717 0390	225	250	5Gb	250	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
EliteUKServe (eliteukserve.net)	Business Pro Linux	0871 717 0390	399	500	10Gb	500	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Eurofasthost.com (www.eurofasthost.com)	Soho	0800 3161 067	£99.00	100Mb	3000Mb	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FastHosts (www.fasthosts.co.uk)	Business	0870 888 3600	149.99	2Gb	n/a	unlimited	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FastHosts (www.fasthosts.co.uk)	Business Pro	0870 888 3600	249.99	5Gb	n/a	unlimited	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FastHosts (www.fasthosts.co.uk)	Net Pro	0870 888 3600	299.99	3Gb	n/a	unlimited	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FastHosts (www.fasthosts.co.uk)	Net Standard	0870 888 3600	199.99	2Gb	n/a	unlimited	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FastHosts (www.fasthosts.co.uk)	Starter	0870 888 3600	19.99	100	n/a	15	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FastHosts (www.fasthosts.co.uk)	Home	0870 888 3600	49.99	500	n/a	100	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FastHosts (www.fasthosts.co.uk)	Home Pro	0870 888 3600	69.99	1Gb	n/a	300	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Giacom (www.giacom.net)	Business Pro	0800 542 7500	199	100	2Gb	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hostextra (www.hostextra.co.uk)	Pro-Host	08702 501 500	99.45	100	10Gb	200		✓				✓	✓	✓	
Global Gold (www.globalgold.co.uk)	Unix launcher	0870 004 4444	78	50	5gb	5	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Global Gold (www.globalgold.co.uk)	NT launcher		180	50	5gb	5	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Haisoft (www.haisoft.co.uk)	HaiSoft Perso	0870 080 4247	£14.90	100Mb	1Gb	Unlimited	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HaiSoft (www.haisoft.co.uk)	HaiSoft Pro	0870 080 4247	£49.90	500Mb	10Gb	Unlimited	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HaiSoft (www.haisoft.co.uk)	HaiSoft eCommerce	0870 080 4247	£99.90	750Mb	20Gb	Unlimited	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HostSupreme (www.hostsupreme.co.uk)	Windows 2000 Unlimited Plan	0208 777 8881	£99.50	Unlimited	Unmetered	Unlimited	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HostSupreme (www.hostsupreme.co.uk)		0208 777 8881	£99.50	1Gb	5Gb	1000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hostway (www.hostway-uk.com)	Silver	0808 180 1880	£79.50	150Mb	3Gb	5	✓	✗	Option	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Hostway (www.hostway-uk.com)	Gold	0808 180 1880	£139.50	300Mb	5Gb	10	✓	✓	Option	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Hostway (www.hostway-uk.com)	Gold Plus	0808 180 1880	£189.50	450Mb	10Gb	30	✓	✓	Option	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Hostway (www.hostway-uk.com)	Platinum	0808 180 1880	£359.50	600Mb	20Gb	50	✓	✓	Option	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Hostway (www.hostway-uk.com)	Platinum Plus	0808 180 1880	£599.50	1.2Gb	40Gb	10	✓	✓	Option	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Hostway (www.hostway-uk.com)	Email Plus	0808 180 1880	£49.95	50Mb	n/a	5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Ideal Hosting (idealhosting.co.uk)	Lite	08712 773494	14.99	25	1Gb	5	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ideal Hosting (idealhosting.co.uk)	Starter	08712 773494	23.49	50	1Gb	20	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ideal Hosting (idealhosting.co.uk)	Standard	08712 773494	52.49	100	1Gb	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ideal Hosting (idealhosting.co.uk)	Professional	08712 773494	68.99	250	1Gb	unlimited	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ideal Hosting (idealhosting.co.uk)	Business	08712 773494	119.99	500	1Gb	unlimited	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ideal Hosting (idealhosting.co.uk)	Corporate	08712 773494	199.99	1000	1Gb	unlimited	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Interdirect Limited (www.interdirect.co.uk)	Business Starter	0845 121 5566	150	25Mb	5Gb	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	n/a	n/a
Interdirect Limited (www.interdirect.co.uk)	Business Intermediate	0845 121 5566	350	100Mb	10Gb	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	n/a	n/a
Interdirect Limited (www.interdirect.co.uk)	Business Advanced	0845 121 5566	450	250Mb	20Gb	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	n/a	n/a
Internetters (www.internetters.co.uk)	Unix Basic 50	0870 160 5555	70	50	1Gb	5	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Internetters (www.internetters.co.uk)	Unix Frontpage 50	0870 160 5555	100	50	1Gb	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Internetters (www.internetters.co.uk)	Unix Standard 200	0870 160 5555	160	200	2Gb	20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Internetters (www.internetters.co.uk)	Unix Superior 500	0870 160 5555	220	500	3Gb	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Internetters (www.internetters.co.uk)	Windows 50	0870 160 5555	100	50	1Gb	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Internetters (www.internetters.co.uk)	Windows 200	0870 160 5555	190	200	2Gb	20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Internetters (www.internetters.co.uk)	Windows 500	0870 160 5555	260	500	3Gb	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Inweb (www.inweb.co.uk)	Example1	0800 612222	200	50	2.5Gb	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Magic Moments www.magic-moments.com	Magic Entry	0115 917 0000	99.95	600Mb	1	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Magic Moments www.magic-moments.com	Magic Pro	0115 917 0000	199.95	1000Mb	1000	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Magic Moments www.magic-moments.com	Magic Business	0115 917 0000	199	1000Mb	1000	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Magic Moments www.magic-moments.com	Magic Business e-commerce	0115 917 0000	499	1000Mb	1000	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Magic Moments www.magic-moments.com	Magic Reseller	0115 917 0000	500	Unlimited	Unlimited	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	
NameHog (www.namehog.net)	Home User Package	0870 9059 444	£35.25	50Mb	500Mb	5	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NameHog (www.namehog.net)	Advanced User Package	0870 9059 444	£58.75	100Mb	750Mb	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NameHog (www.namehog.net)	Small Business Package	0870 9059 444	£82.25	175Mb	1Gb	15	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NameHog (www.namehog.net)	Large Business Package	0870 9059 444	£105.75	300Mb	1.2Gb	20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NameHog (www.namehog.net)	Premium Business Package	0870 9059 444	£176.25	500Mb	1.5Gb	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Namesco (www.names.co.uk)	StartUp	0870 120 8888	£49.99	50Mb	1Gb	5	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Namesco (www.names.co.uk)	Business	0870 120 8888	£149.99	250Mb	4Gb	25	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Namesco (www.names.co.uk)	Enterprise+	0870 120 8888	£289.99	750Mb	15Gb	200	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NetBenefit (www.netbenefit.com)	Business Package	0870 264 2298	£199	100Mb	2Gb	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Sponsored by
HOSTWAY THE HOSTING COMPANY
0808 018 1880 www.hostway.co.uk

NAME AND URL	PACKAGE	PHONE NUMBER	COST PER YEAR	WEB SPACE	MONTHLY BANDWIDTH	POP3 ACCOUNTS	FRONTPAGE EXTENSIONS	DATABASE SUPPORT	SHOPPING CART	VIRUS FILTER	FIREWALL	PHONE SUPPORT	EMAIL SUPPORT	WEB CONTROL PANEL	SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT
Netcetera (www.inetc.net)	HOME	0800 2987 214	£60	100Mb	2Gb	1	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Netcetera (www.inetc.net)	COMMERCE	0800 2987 214	£180	200Mb	4Gb	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Netcetera (www.inetc.net)	RESELLER	0800 2987 214	£450	2Gb	20Gb	Unlimited	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Netcetera (www.inetc.net)	.NETppliance 2000	0800 2987 214	£2000	2x40Gb IDE	60Gb	Unlimited	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Netcetera (www.inetc.net)	.NETppliance 2400	0800 2987 214	£3000	2x80Gb IDE	80Gb	Unlimited	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Netcetera (www.inetc.net)	.NETppliance 3000	0800 2987 214	£4000	2x73Gb SCSI	100Gb	Unlimited	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Netcetera (www.inetc.net)	.NETppliance 1800	0800 2987 214	£780	1x40Gb IDE	100Gb	Unlimited	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Netscalibur (www.netscalibur.com)	Netscalibur Web Unix	0800 072 0000	324	100	5Gb	1	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Netscalibur (www.netscalibur.com)	Netscalibur Web Windows	0800 072 0000	324	100	5Gb	1	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
NewNet (www.newnet.co.uk)	Entry	0845 6840845	£23	200Mb	1Gb	1	£15	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	
NewNet (www.newnet.co.uk)	Bronze	0845 6840845	£99	1Gb	5Gb	10	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	
NewNet (www.newnet.co.uk)	Unix Gold	0845 6840845	£199	2Gb	10Gb	40	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	
NewNet (www.newnet.co.uk)	.net Platinum	0845 6840845	£499	5Gb	25Gb	100	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗		
Nildram www.nildram.net	Unix	08701 608602	£141.00	10Mb	5Gb	n	n	mySQL	n	n	n	y	y	y	n
Nildram www.nildram.net	Windows	08701 608602	£141.00	10Mb	5Gb	n	y	n/a	n	n	n	y	y	y	n
Nildram www.nildram.net	Shared SQL Business 50	08701 608602	£352.50	50Mb	25Gb	n	n	SQL	n	n	n	y	y	y	n
Nildram www.nildram.net	Shared SQL Business 100	08701 608602	£705.00	100Mb	50Gb	n	n	SQL	n	n	n	y	y	y	n
Nildram www.nildram.net	MySQL Server 20	08701 608602	£141.00	20Mb	10Gb	n	n	MySQL	n	n	n	y	y	n	n
Pay As You Host (www.pay-as-you-host.com)	Standard	0870 284 0287	£47.88	50Mb	512Mb	Unlimited	7	3	7	7	3	3	3	3	3
Positive Internet Company (www.positive-internet.com)	Z account	0800 316 1006	£293.75	120Mb	10Gb	Unlimited	7	3	7	3	3	7	3	3	7
Positive Internet Company (www.positive-internet.com)	Dolphin	0800 316 1006	£2172.58	2x20Gb	40-60Gb	Unlimited	7	3	7	3	3	7	3	3	7
Positive Internet Company (www.positive-internet.com)	Fully managed servers	0800 316 1006	*£5287.50	2x70Gb SCSI	80-250Gb	Unlimited	7	3	7	3	3	3	3	3	3
Simply (www.simply.com)	Simply Basic	01684 893020	47.88	10Mb	1Gb	1	7	7	7	3	7	3	3	3	3
Simply (www.simply.com)	Simply Soho	01684 893020	71.88	250Mb	3Gb	10	3	7	7	3	7	3	3	3	3
Simply (www.simply.com)	Simply Enterprise	01684 893020	107.88	500Mb	10Gb	50	3	3	7	3	3	3	3	3	3
Simply (www.simply.com)	Simply Corporate	01684 893020	203.88	1Gb	20Gb	100	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Simply (www.simply.com)	Simply Designer	01684 893020	239.88	1Gb	20Gb	200	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Simply (www.simply.com)	Simply Reseller	01684 893020	479.88	unlimited	30Gb	unlimited	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Skymarket (www.skymarket.co.uk)	Standard 1	0800 321 7788	49	10Mb	2Gb	1	7	3	7	3	3	3	3	3	3
Skymarket (www.skymarket.co.uk)	Standard 2	0800 321 7788	69	20Mb	2Gb	1	7	3	7	3	3	3	3	3	3
Skymarket (www.skymarket.co.uk)	Premium 1	0800 321 7788	99	25Mb	2Gb	1	3	3	7	3	3	3	3	3	3
Skymarket (www.skymarket.co.uk)	Premium 2	0800 321 7788	149	50Mb	2Gb	1	3	3	7	3	3	3	3	3	3
SO Hosts (www.sohosts.com)	Standard	0845 644 1080	£29.99	500Mb	Unlimited	Unlimited	3	3	7	3	3	3	3	3	3
Swift Internet (www.swiftinter.net)	S15 Linux	0845 60 60 210	£44	75Mb	1Gb	1	7	7	7	3	3	3	3	3	3
Swift Internet (www.swiftinter.net)	S25 Linux	0845 60 60 210	£70	125Mb	2Gb	5	7	7	7	3	3	3	3	3	3
Swift Internet (www.swiftinter.net)	S50 Linux or Windows	0845 60 60 210	£94	250Mb	3Gb	10	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Swift Internet (www.swiftinter.net)	S125 Linux or Windows	0845 60 60 210	£170	750Mb	7Gb	50	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
theName.co.uk (www.thename.co.uk)	Parking	08707 65 63 64	£52.88	25Mb	500Mb	15	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	7
theName.co.uk (www.thename.co.uk)	Forwarding	08707 65 63 64	From £15	n/a	500Mb	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	3	3	3	3	7
theName.co.uk (www.thename.co.uk)	Hosting	08707 65 63 64	From £7.50	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	3	3	3	7
Titan Internet (www.titanhosts.net)	Win50	0845 125 9500	£58.75	50Mb	500Mb	5	3	7	7	3	3	3	3	3	3
Titan Internet (www.titanhosts.net)	Win100	0845 125 9500	£117.50	100Mb	1Gb	20	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Titan Internet (www.titanhosts.net)	Win200	0845 125 9500	£235	200Mb	2Gb	Unlimited	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
ValueWebHosts (www.valuewebhosts.com)	Plan 1	n/a	£8.99	Unlimited	125Mb	Unlimited	3	3	7	7	3	7	3	3	7
WebFusion (www.webfusion.co.uk)	Entry	0870 333 0250	£79.50	600Mb	7Gb	300	3	3	7	7	7	3	3	3	3
WebFusion (www.webfusion.co.uk)	Home	0870 333 025	0£99.95	1.5Gb	10Gb	500	3	3	7	7	7	3	3	3	3
WebFusion (www.webfusion.co.uk)	Soho	0870 333 0250	£149.99	3Gb	15Gb	1000	3	3	7	7	7	3	3	3	3
WebFusion (www.webfusion.co.uk)	Professional	0870 333 0250	£199.95	5Gb	20Gb	Unlimited	3	3	7	7	7	3	3	3	3
WebFusion (www.webfusion.co.uk)	eCommerce	0870 333 0250	£499	5Gb	20Gb	Unlimited	3	3	7	7	7	3	3	3	3
Web Tapestry (www.webtapestry.net)	WebBuilder	£22.31	100Mb	5Gb	15	y	n	n	y	y	y	y	y	n	
Web Tapestry (www.webtapestry.net)	Webmaster	£52.88	500Mb	10Gb	Unlimited	y	n	n	y	y	y	y	y	n	
Web Tapestry (www.webtapestry.net)	WebProfessional	£69.99	1Gb	15Gb	Unlimited	y	y	n	y	y	y	y	y	n	
Web Tapestry (www.webtapestry.net)	WebEnterprise	£158.63	3Gb	20Gb	Unlimited	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	n	
Xcalibre (www.xcalibre.co.uk)	Hosting Standard	0870 050 0080	39.95	50Mb	1Gb	5	3	3	3	7	7	3	3	3	3
Xcalibre (www.xcalibre.co.uk)	Hosting Standard Plus	0870 050 0080	99.95	50Mb	2Gb	10	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Xcalibre (www.xcalibre.co.uk)	Hosting Business	0870 050 0080	79.95	100Mb	3Gb	15	3	3	3	7	7	3	3	3	3
Xcalibre (www.xcalibre.co.uk)	Hosting Business Plus	0870 050 0080	159.95	150Mb	4Gb	30	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Xcalibre (www.xcalibre.co.uk)	Hosting Professional	0870 050 0080	179.95	250Mb	7Gb	50	3	3	3	7	7	3	3	3	3
Xcalibre (www.xcalibre.co.uk)	Hosting Professional Plus	0870 050 0080	299	500Mb	10Gb	100	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Xcalibre (www.xcalibre.co.uk)	Standard Multiweb	0870 050 0080	64.95	75Mb	1.5Gb	10	3	3	3	7	7	3	3	3	3
Xcalibre (www.xcalibre.co.uk)	Standard Multiweb Plus	0870 050 0080	149.95	100Mb	2.5Gb	15	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Xcalibre (www.xcalibre.co.uk)	Business Multiweb	0870 050 0080	149.95	200Mb	4Gb	25	3	3	3	7	7	3	3	3	3
Xcalibre (www.xcalibre.co.uk)	Business Multiweb Plus	0870 050 0080	299	250Mb	5Gb	40	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Xcalibre (www.xcalibre.co.uk)	Professional Multiweb	0870 050 0080	249	500Mb	7.5Gb	100	3	3	3	7	7	3	3	3	3
Xcalibre (www.xcalibre.co.uk)	Professional Multiweb Plus	0870 050 0080	499	500Mb	10Gb	150	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Zen Internet (www.zen.co.uk)	ActiveSpace	0845 058 9000	£100	50MB	2GB	0	3	3	7	7	3	3	3	7	7
Zen Internet (www.zen.co.uk)	.NETspace	0845 058 9000	£250	100MB	4GB	0	3	3	7	7	3	3	3	7	7

HOME PACKAGE

500MB WEB SPACE / 100 POP3 ACCOUNTS / UNLIMITED BANDWIDTH / VIRUS SCAN INCLUDED / LINUX BASED / AUTOMATIC ACCOUNT ACTIVATION / £4.49 PER MONTH

BUSINESS PACKAGE

1500MB WEB SPACE / 500 POP3 ACCOUNTS / UNLIMITED BANDWIDTH / VIRUS SCAN / 100 SUBDOMAINS / 1 MYSQL DATABASE / FREE CGI'S / LINUX BASED / £7.99 PER MONTH

STANDARD ON ALL OUR PACKAGES

HOSTED ON HI-SPEC DELL SERVERS / OWN AUTONOMOUS DATACENTRE / DUAL REDUNDANT INTERNET CONNECTIONS / UNINTERRUPTIBLE POWER SUPPLIES / WEBMAIL ACCESS / ONLINE CONTROL PANEL / UNLIMITED E-MAIL FORWARDING / AUTORESPONDERS / SPAM FILTERS / VIRUS PROTECTED EMAIL / FULL CGI-BIN AND CGI SUPPORT / MICROSOFT FRONTPAGE EXTENSIONS / SUB DOMAINS / 24 HOUR FTP ACCESS / PHP4 SCRIPTING LANGUAGE / FULL GRAPHICAL STATISTICS / UNLIMITED PHONE AND E-MAIL SUPPORT / REGULAR OFF-SITE BACKUPS / TERMINATION ANYTIME - NO CONTRACTS! / 99.9% UPTIME

PLUS CHEAPEST DOMAIN NAMES IN THE UK

50 E-MAIL FORWARDING ADDRESSES / FREE DOMAIN TRANSFER TO SWITCH MEDIA / FREE DOMAIN PARKING FOR FUTURE USE / UPGRADE YOUR ACCOUNT AT ANY TIME / EXCLUSIVE ACCESS TO OUR ONLINE CONTROL PANEL / NO SET-UP FEE / £1.99 PER YEAR

order online: www.switchmedia.co.uk
sales hotline: 0151 236 9111

Hosting accounts carry £9.99 one off set-up fee and must be paid for annually in advance. All prices exclude VAT.

TECH SUPPORT

THE EXPERTS

WHO'S ON CALL?

MAAH SHUFFLEBOTTOM

Mark lectures on the BA Hons Interactive Media course at Bournemouth University, where he teaches digital imaging, interface design and 3D applications. Mark is our Flash expert, and in this issue he sorts out problems with size and presentation, shows you how to make the most of your artistic talents with the help of Flash's Brush tool, and explains how to use a Combo box.

NEIL WITHNALL

Neil is a freelance Web developer who has spent years learning the technical and practical aspects of Web design. He is equally at home working in Dreamweaver as he is with the latest hand-coding technologies. That's just as well, as we've drafted him in to be your friendly Dreamweaver expert, so if you have any HTML issues, Neil will sort them out for you.

GEORGE CAIANS

George is a freelance illustrator who specialises in Photoshop, After Effects and 3D modelling. We've procured George's formidable talents as our regular Photoshop expert, so if you have a problem with your pixels, call on George. This time he focuses on navigation, and explains that the Navigator might not always be the best way to get around! He also takes a look at a colour balance problem.

RACHEL ANDREW

Rachel is a director of Web development company edgeofmyseat.com (**www.edgeofmyseat.com**), and is currently a member of the Web Standards Project (**www.webstandards.org**). With years of Webmaster experience, she was the perfect choice to be our Web development expert, so any time you have a coding glitch, drop Rachel a line and she'll sort you out.

CONTACT US:

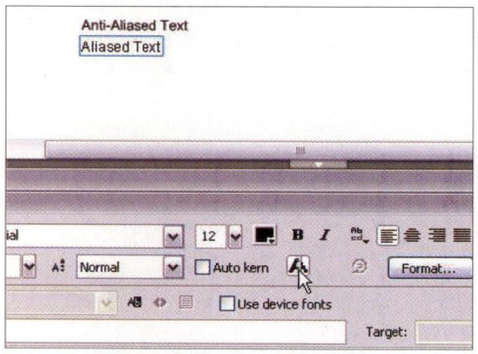
Tech Support,
Web Designer,
Highbury Entertainment Ltd,
Paragon House,
St Peter's Road,
Bournemouth, BH1 2JS

Email: techsupport@paragon.co.uk

Unfortunately we cannot answer help requests in person

FLASH

HAVING PROBLEMS WITH VECTOR-BASED ANIMATION? ALLOW **MARK SHUFFLEBOTTOM** TO CURE YOUR HEADACHES WITH A SMILE



To ensure that your small text is legible without having to bump up your file size, click on the Aliased Text button

TINY TEXT

Q I have been working with large quantities of text on my site, as it's an information site. The only problem is that some of the text is quite small and it's quite hard to read when viewing on a large screen resolution display. I thought about making my text a GIF image, but this would make my file size unnecessarily bulky. Is there anything I can do?

Daniel Welch

A This can be quite a problem in Flash if you have small text, because it does become difficult to read. It's all down to 'anti-aliasing'. When text is anti-aliased, the computer adds grey (assuming your text is black on a white background) pixels to the edge of your text to make the curves or angled lines appear smooth. By adding these extra pixels there is obviously a little more width to the pixels that make up your text, so when this is displayed at small sizes a problem can occur with some fonts, in that they cannot be read.

Fortunately, the problem has been addressed in Flash MX 2004 by Macromedia. When you type some text on the screen, you can click on the Aliased Text button on the Properties panel. This will toggle between aliased and anti-aliased text. You'll see that small text with aliasing will be much clearer to read, so use this for your small text. Obviously, with anything larger you want the text to appear nice and smooth, so turn it back to anti-aliasing. That should stop you having to convert your text into bulky GIF images.

MAKING A PRESENTATION

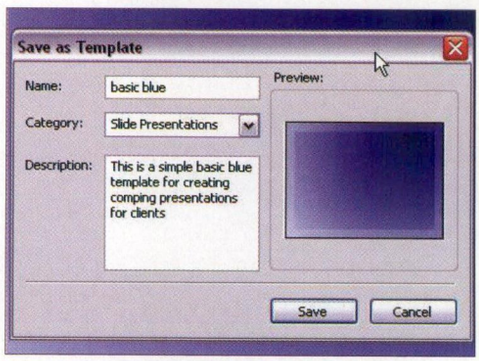
Q I create quite a lot of presentations as part of my job. I noticed in Flash MX 2004 that there are some presentations built in. I was wondering if I could get my own in there instead, as my presentations all use the company logo in the top left corner.

Chris Hands

A The templates in Flash are a great way to save time, because you can use a template with all the common elements you need in your design. This can be particularly useful if you work with others who need to share the same common design. The default templates are just there to show what can be done, and they're probably not to everyone's taste. It isn't a problem to either customise an existing template or create your own.

To create your own, simply create a new Flash document and complete the layout on the screen with the drawing tools. You could even put some text boxes in if you wanted to. Add your company logo and any other screen decorations you need. Once this is done, go to the File menu and choose Save as Template. In the dialog box that pops up, add the name of the template. From the drop-down list choose the category you would like the template to go into and then add a description, so if you have similar ones you'll easily know the difference.

If you want to customise a template, create a new document from the template and make the changes. Then all you need do is choose Save as Template from the File menu as before, and rename the file to something different. Now you'll be able to lay out your presentations quickly and easily.



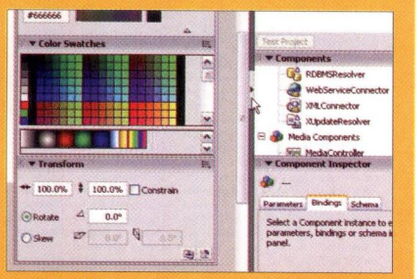
Creating your own presentation template is a simple process in Flash, and you have a wide range of options

EXPERT ADVICE

CREATIVE TIP

PERSONALISE YOUR SPACE

The workspace in Flash has been designed so that you can customise the area as much as possible to the way you feel happy with it. Remember, panels can be joined and separated easily, so you can have several complementary panels together for ease of use. Panels can be docked at the right-hand side of the interface or left to float freely on top of your work. Similarly, the Properties Inspector and the ActionScript panel can be pulled apart to give you access to a bigger Code view. Any docked palettes can easily be minimised by pressing on the Arrow icon that separates them from the main interface.



■ Flash allows you to customise your workspace so that it suits your individual needs

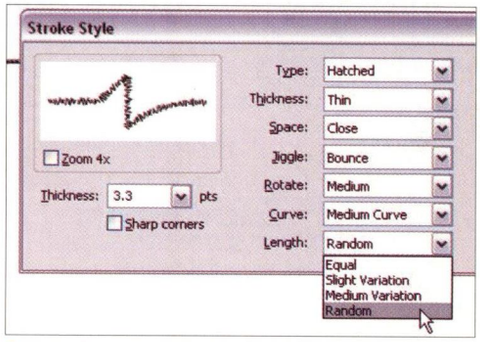
BRUSHING UP

Q I read your advice a few issues ago and was impressed with the improvements to the Brush tool. They have brought a whole new dimension to my drawing technique. I just wondered, are there any more improvements that would help my artistic flair?

Sarah Davidson

A This is tricky without knowing how well you've explored Flash, but there is a little enhancement to the stroke which will help you get a more artistic edge to graphics.

Whenever you draw a line in Flash, you can change the width and appearance of the line from the drop-down menu on the Properties palette. Most people tend to miss the Custom button, which is sitting right next to this. If you click it, a pop-up window appears which lets you change the settings of the stroke. There are all the usual strokes, such as Hairline, Solid, Dashed, Dotted and Ragged, but the Custom box comes into its own when you choose the Stippled or Hatched line. On the Hatched line you can edit the thickness of the hatch, the spacing of the strokes and the jiggle – the amount of movement each stroke of the hatch has. Hatches can also be rotated or curved, and have the length increased.



■ If you choose the Hatched line, you're able to edit the thickness, spacing, jiggle, rotation, curve and length

The line thickness is different: it refers to the amount of space the line should take, allowing for the jiggle, height and rotation of the line. Obviously there's more data here for the lines, so if used heavily there could be a big file increase and therefore a longer download time for visitors. ■

TECHNIQUE

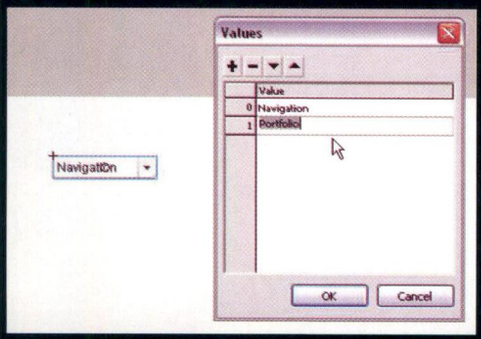
COMBO BOX BOTHER

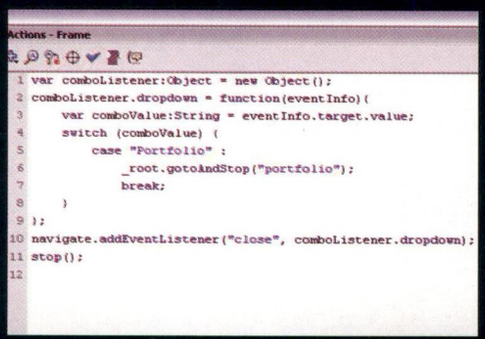
Q I've been trying to use a Combo box, one of Flash's built-in components, to build a navigation menu – but don't understand how it works. I can create it okay, but when it comes to finding out which selection has been made, it seems to fail. Can you help?

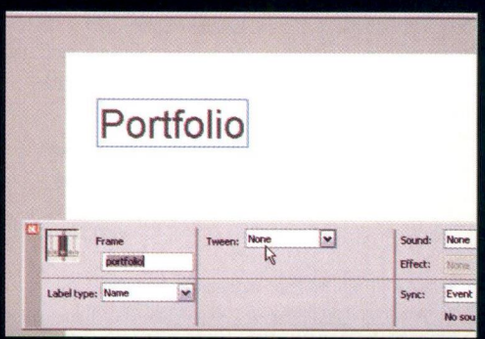
Shabban Siddiq

A These built-in components can cause a bit of bother, but are really quite simple. First, drag the Combo box to the stage. Give it an instance and add the labels you want your user to be able to see when they click the box.

The next part is a bit trickier. It involves ActionScript, and for this you'll need to select an empty frame on frame 1 of your movie. In the code, you need to set up a listener object to hear what's been pressed when you select a Combo box label. The code will then have to do something, eg jump to another part of the movie. The instance name of the Combo box must have the listener object attached. Finally, add the frames on the movie timeline for the playhead to jump to. ■







1 CREATE THE COMBO

First drag the Combo Box component to the stage and then add the instance name of 'navigate'. Now click on the Labels option on the Properties palette, name the first label 'Navigation' and add another label with the Plus symbol. Name the second label 'Portfolio'.

2 ADD THE ACTIONSCRIPT

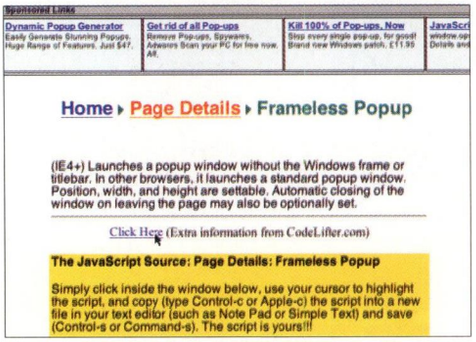
Create a new layer, select frame 1 of that layer and press F9 to open the ActionScript panel. Copy the code as shown in the screenshot above. This will create the listener and set up what happens if the Portfolio label is pressed. The Stop command stops the playhead here.

3 FRAME LABEL

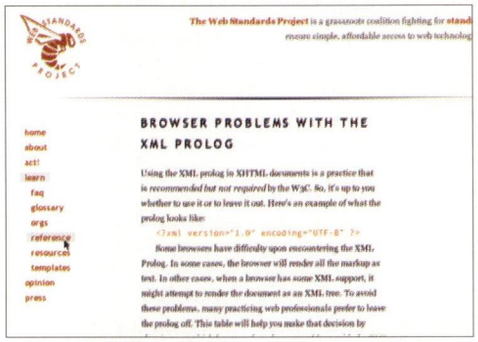
Select frame 10 and press F7 to add a blank keyframe. Add a frame label here of 'portfolio' and write the title 'Portfolio' on the stage, using the Text tool. Now press Control & Enter to see your movie. You'll notice that when you select the Portfolio label you'll jump to that frame label.

DREAMWEAVER

NEIL WITHNALL IS HERE TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR DREAMWEAVER WOES, SO IF YOU HAVE ANY WEB-WEAVING PROBLEMS, GET IN TOUCH



When you create a frameless pop-up window, remember to provide a link that will allow users to close it again



www.webstandards.org/learn/reference/prolog_problems.html can identify browsers having difficulty with the XML Prolog

SIZING IT UP

Q **In the picture gallery of one of my sites, I want a bigger version of each thumbnail to appear in a separate window – but I want this window to be no bigger than the image itself without a menu bar, toolbar or scrollbar. How is this done?**

Anupam Bansoodeb

A For this kind of effect you'll need to create a frameless pop-up window; an example of the code required to do this can be found at **javascript.internet.com/page-details/frameless-popup.html**. The script works by checking the user's browser type then creating either a frameless pop-up window for browsers that support this feature (Internet Explorer v4 upwards – PC only) or a normal JavaScript pop-up window (with just the title bar, auto-scrollbars and frames) for all other browsers.

When creating frameless pop-up windows, you'll also need to provide a JavaScript link to let users close the window. Alternatively, you could include scripting to automatically close the pop-up window when the user clicks back to the original page, using either onBlur() or onFocus().

OLDER BROWSERS

Q **I'm currently designing a site in XHTML, but want to know if this will create any problems for users with older browsers.**

Bob Sewell

A Because XHTML has been designed to be fully backwards compatible, your users should have little difficulty accessing your site. That said, one element that often trips up older browsers is the XML Prolog – the <?xml> tag that appears at the very top of the page and specifies which version of XML the document conforms to (relevant because XHTML is based on XML).

Some older browsers see this tag and assume they're trying to open a text file, and subsequently display a text listing of the code rather than trying to interpret the page. The simplest option, approved by the W3C, is to remove the tag altogether. On a final note, be aware that if you remove the <?xml> tag then open the Page Properties window in Dreamweaver, the code will be reinserted for you – in this case you just need to remove the code as before.

INSERTING SPREADSHEET DATA

Q **Is there a way in Dreamweaver to insert spreadsheet data into pages?**

Carol Maffy

A The short answer to this question is yes, but you first need to make sure your spreadsheet data is in the most simplified format possible to enable Dreamweaver to work with it successfully.

In your spreadsheet application, with the relevant file loaded, open the Save As dialog box then select any of the plain text, delimited formats available. The term 'delimited' means that a unique reserved character is used to separate each value; common characters used include tabs, commas and colons. Once you've saved your file in the new format, switch to Dreamweaver, click in the page where you want your data to appear and choose File>Import>Tabular Data from the main menu.

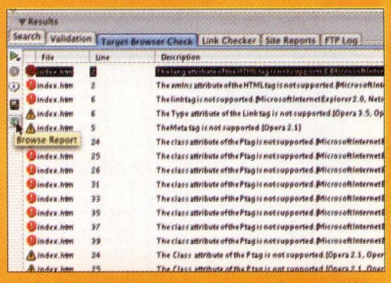
In the window, select your spreadsheet file then choose a delimiter type. Because delimited files generally don't include formatting information, you'll need to style each table by hand, but you can save time when doing this by making sure you use the Redefine HTML Tag option in the New CSS Style window to create general style rules for the main table tags (<table>, <td>, <th>, etc) that control font styles, background colours and cell properties.

EXPERT ADVICE

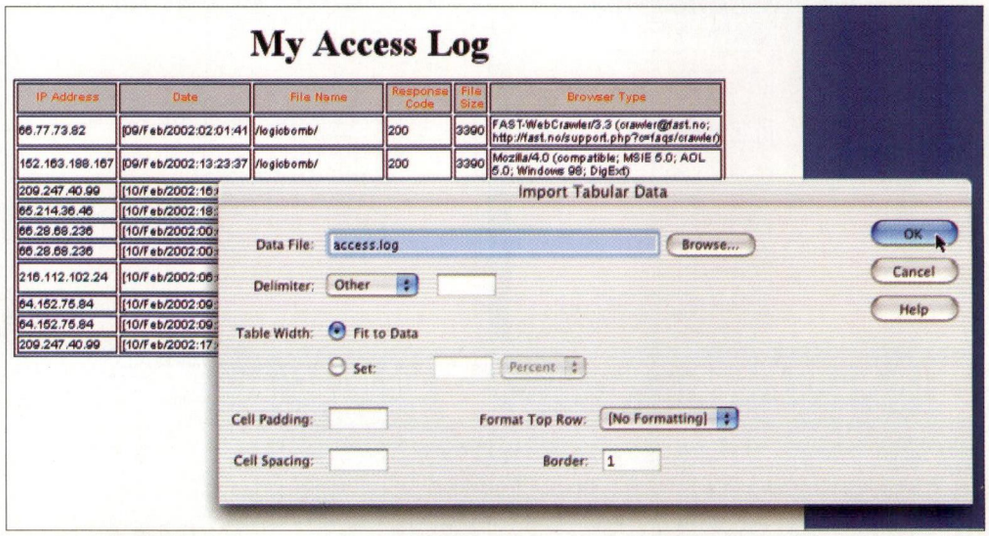
BROWSER CHECK

THE BROWSE REPORT BUTTON

If you use the Check Target Browsers tool to see how accessible your pages are for different browsers, make sure you use the Browse Report button to preview the results in a browser. As well as making the report easier to read, the browser version also generates a 'league table' to show how many errors occurred for each browser type. The code containing the error or warning is also reproduced, enabling you to see exactly where the problem lies. Remember, as well as the inbuilt validation tools, you can also use free online services such as the Bobby validator at **bobby.watchfire.com/bobby/html/en/index.jsp** to test site accessibility.



The browser version gives you a league table showing the errors for each browser type



In the Import Tabular Data window, choose a delimiter type to make sure Dreamweaver can work with your spreadsheet data

PHOTOSHOP

GET YOUR PHOTOSHOP SKILLS UP TO SCRATCH, THANKS TO **GEORGE CAIRNS'** EXCELLENT ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

NIFTY NAVIGATION

Q I'm always keen to speed up my workflow. Any tips on souping up my navigation techniques?

Paula Donovan

A Navigation around the Photoshop interface ought to be immediate and intuitive. You should be able to get to a particular area of pixels with the minimum of fuss.

Ironically, I never use the Navigator to navigate. The Navigator combines the Zoom tool and the Hand tool into one useful interface, and is designed to let you zoom in and out of the workspace using a slider. In theory it sounds great, but I tend to avoid it because it creates another floating window that gets in the way of my pixel pushing, especially when I'm using tools like the Magnetic Lasso, which tend to get lost when they try to select pixels that lie behind a floating window.

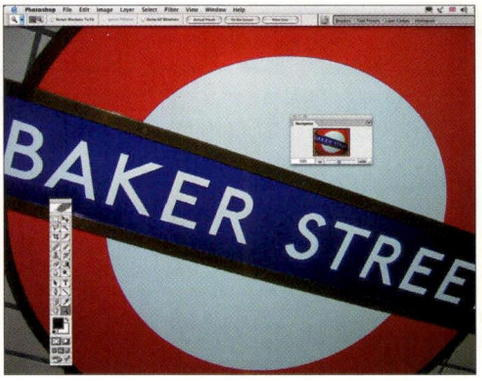
Photoshop is nearly perfect, now it's hit its eighth incarnation, but once you've got a tool like the Magnetic Lasso on the go, you can't hide the floating windows in the usual way by hitting the Tab key. You have to stop using the tool, hit Tab, and then start the selection all over again.

So avoid the Navigator and opt for keyboard shortcuts for faster access to your precious pixels. Press Control & + or – to zoom in and out. This is the equivalent of clicking on the little Mountain icons on the Navigator, which allow you to incrementally zoom in and out.

If you've got a scroll wheel on your mouse, you can use that to zoom in and out, which is perhaps the most intuitive way of navigating around your Photoshop workspace. You don't have to select the Zoom tool for the scroll wheel technique to work. Use any tool you like and just hold down the Alt key. Scroll up to zoom out and down to zoom in.

If you've zoomed in and quickly need to see the image at full size (100%), double-click on the Zoom tool icon in the toolbox. The Zoom tool is a Photoshop veteran, but still plays a crucial role in your day-to-day navigation. Once you've selected it, click to zoom in. Press the Alt key and the Zoom tool's magnifying glass cursor changes to a minus, indicating that it's ready to zoom out.

Use the Zoom tool to select a specific area of pixels by clicking and dragging a marquee box around the desired area. The screen will then be filled by a zoomed-in version of those pixels. Once you're working at high magnification, hold down the spacebar to activate the Hand tool (H). This will help you navigate when zoomed in close, by allowing you to drag the workspace around. Like most tools, the Zoom tool has a few extra settings in the Options bar. Here you can click to see the document's print size, or make it instantly fit onscreen.



■ **You need to find a way of navigating that works for you – and it won't always be the 'obvious' way!**

As all of the above shows, Photoshop is a very versatile package and offers many different ways to do the same thing. There will be plenty of people reading this who always use the Navigator, but the trick is to find a way of navigating that suits your own style. Hopefully, one of the above techniques will meet your needs. ■

TECHNIQUE

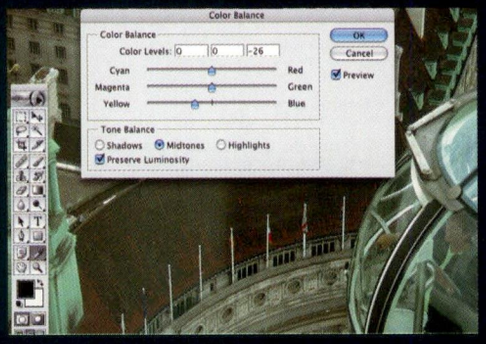
GETTING THE BALANCE RIGHT

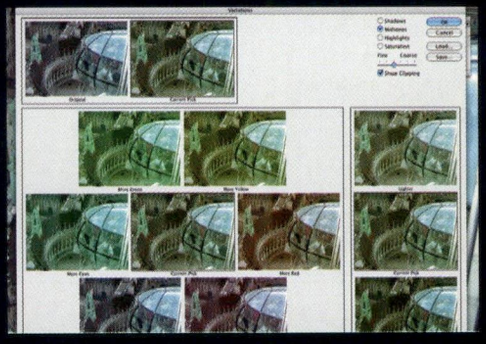
Q I was interested to read last month's article on using Photoshop CS's Match Color option to sort out colour casts. But we don't all have CS, you know. How do I sort out the problem in version 7?

Richard Warwick

A Fear not, Richard, Photoshop has plenty of ways to take your errant colours under its wing. Like many other colour trickery under the Photoshop bonnet, it's all a bit of a balancing act.

Follow our three-step tutorial to discover what we did to correct a common photographic mistake, and learn how to cool down or warm up your colours in version 7 and above. As you'll see, it's a lot easier than you'd think, and will help you fix even the most colour-imbalanced of digital photographs in a matter of minutes. So, eyes down and let's get stuck into the colour-balancing walkthrough. ■





1 TRUE BLUE

Here's a problem shot. The photographer set the camera's colour balance to an indoor setting, so the camera added some blue to 'cool the light source down'. But the scene is lit by outdoor light – so daylight, which the camera would normally warm up, has become even cooler and bluer.

2 COLOUR BALANCE

To warm things up, we'll reduce the amount of blue. If you're familiar with colour wheels, you'll know the opposite of blue is yellow. We need to add yellow to reduce the blue. Go to Image>Adjustments>Color Balance. Drag the slider away from the blue and towards the yellow to warm up the image.

3 VARIATIONS ON A THEME

A more sophisticated version of the Color Balance window is the Variations window. Go to Image>Adjustments> Variations. Here we can see that More Yellow is opposite More Blue. Click on More Yellow to warm up the image. You can also lighten/darken the image or restore it to its original condition.

DEVELOPER

RACHEL ANDREW SHOWS YOU HOW TO TAME EVEN THE MIGHTIEST OF CODING TECHNOLOGIES AND CREATE SITES THE WAY YOU WANT

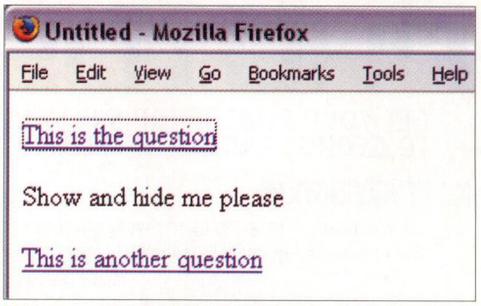
MICROSOFT MAGIC

Q I like the effect used on Microsoft's site for its Q and A sections. When you click on a question, the answer appears below it without the page having to reload. It's a nice effect for FAQs – how do they do it?

Kevin Wheldon

A You can create the type of effect seen on their site at **www.microsoft.com/office/editions/prodinfo/faq.mspx** by using JavaScript to toggle the display CSS property. If an element is set to 'display: none', it's still on the page, but a CSS supporting browser won't show it or the space it would take up. By loading the answers with 'display: none' applied to them in the CSS, you can activate a function onclick of the question to display them, as shown below:

```
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0
Transitional//EN"

"http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-
transitional.dtd">
<html>
<head>
<title>Untitled</title>
<script language="javascript"
type="text/javascript">
function toggle( targetId ){
  if (document.getElementById){
                    target =
document.getElementById( targetId );
                                if
(target.style.display == "none"){

target.style.display = "";
                                } else {

target.style.display = "none";
                                }
        }
}
</script>
</head>

<body>
<p><a href="#"
onclick="toggle('hide1');">This is the
question</a></p>
<div id="hide1" style="display: none;">
<p>Show and hide me please</p>
</div>

<p><a href="#"
onclick="toggle('hide2');">This is another
question</a></p>
<div id="hide2" style="display: none;">
<p>And another answer</p>
</div>

</body>
</html>
```



You can use JavaScript to create the type of effect used on the Microsoft Web site in the Q&A sections

The div with the answer is set to 'display: none' and has a unique id. The link sends the id of that div to the function, which checks to see if display is set to 'none' and sets it to "". If it's already 'display:' it sets it back to 'display: none'.

TECHNIQUE

SELECTIVE PRINTING

Q I would like users to be able to print the pages of my site without ending up with bits of the layout and images printing out too. Do I need to create a text-only version of every page of my site to achieve this, or is there another way to do it?

Rob Hales

A Using CSS and media descriptors, it's possible to create a print style sheet that only comes into use if you print your page.

This is an incredibly useful way to use CSS and is well supported by modern browsers – IE5 and up, Mozilla-based browsers, Safari and several others. It won't work in early browsers such as Netscape 4, so you'll need to make a decision as to whether you have many of these users, and if the print functionality is so necessary that you need to create a separate page just for them. Our three-step tutorial below tells you more...

print.css

```
30
31   #container {
32      position: absolute;
33      top:120px;
34      left: 0px;
35   }
36
37   #containertop {
38      display: none;
39   }
40
```

1 SAVE YOUR EXISTING STYLE SHEET

The easiest way to create a print style sheet is to simply save your existing style sheet as 'print.css' and then edit it so that any areas you don't wish to print are hidden when the style sheet is used. Set any area that you wish to hide to 'display: none;'.

```
<style type="text/css" media="all">
@import "/inc/layout.css";
</style>
<script type="text/javascript" src="/inc/main.js"></script>
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" media="print" href="/inc/print.css" />
<meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=iso-8859-1" />
</head>
<body>

<div id="title">
```

2 LINK IN THE PRINT STYLE SHEET

So the browser knows this style sheet is for print only, link it in with a media descriptor of print: <link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" media="print" href="/inc/print.css" /> There are other descriptors for handheld devices, Braille printers and so on, but they aren't well implemented yet.

3 THE FINAL EFFECT

You can then check your page by printing it or simply checking in Print Preview in the browser. You don't just need to hide areas – for example, serif fonts are easier to read when printed, so you could change the font face when the user prints the page as well.

e-commerce made easy

cybershop UK

Announcing the launch of Shop Builder V2.2 and a host of new shopping basket features

If you can add a single line of HTML to a web page, then you have all the required skills to transform any web project into a fully functional e-commerce site.....in minutes!

Our powerful web-based system is packed with features and provides high end design flexibility - at low cost.
It can be used by a computer novice, or an expert. Many web designers use our Shopping Basket and Shop Builder V2.2 as a fast and secure solution to quickly add e-commerce and back-end sales systems to their own in-house web designs.

CyberShopUK would like to apologise in advance to those who actually enjoy downloading and installing software, or sorting out CGI & Perl scripts. Even our payment solutions can be integrated in seconds. With CyberShopUK a powerful e-commerce solution just became a whole lot easier, faster and of course....more cost effective!

Register now for a 30 day FREE TRIAL!

Everything you need - including useful bank & Payment Solution information.

SHOPPING BASKET

Creates a simple "buy me" link that can be added to any web site or HTML e-mail. Our servers deliver the basket and secure payment pages, then take care of everything including secure credit card processing and customer purchase e-mail confirmations. All you need to do is log into your own secure Merchant Admin page and view your order details.

You can choose how your basket looks by adding a logo or product picture and creating a colour scheme to match your website. It really is that simple!

ONLY £99 p.a

SHOP BUILDER V2.2

An online shop builder that provides a complete web design solution, including templates, pictures, hosting, advanced stock control and full order management.

Creative users may even wish to integrate their "Shop" within a new or existing website layout, adding product search and e-commerce to their site within minutes!

All shops come complete with shopping basket and secure payment pages as standard.

ONLY £20 p.mth

"Using the CyberShopUK shop builder allows us to take deposit payments online at any time of day or night. The system runs itself and automatically removes items that are not in stock and e-mails us when an order has been placed. I am not a web designer and I can add/remove jet skis without any problems (!) Accounts are made easy as orders can be displayed in CSV format and added to our own accounting software. Everything is simple, written in plain English and actually works...all for less than £1 per day" - Jet Ski South West.

WorldPay accredited partner

SECPay

UKWDA Registered Member

www.CyberShopUK.com

E: info@CyberShopUK.com T: 0870 909 5 909

ON SALE NOW

at all good newsagents now!

Practical Web Projects is the magazine for people who want to master the latest Web creation software. Each issue takes an in-depth look at a leading Web design program and shows you how to build amazing Web sites and create stunning graphics

DIYDating.com
Free Dating Web Sites

Create
Your own Profit Making
Dating Web Site
www.diy-dating.com

100% FREE

Features

- Free Site Hosting
- Free Site Templates
- Web-based control panel for advanced and novice users
- Huge database of existing contacts
- Fully customisable using your own images and HTML code

www.diy-dating.com

LOGICAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE RIGHT
APPLICATION DEVELOPER

You will be technically sound, capable of problem solving and meeting deadlines, whilst maintaining high quality standards.
Enthusiasm, dedication, self motivation, the ability to learn quickly within a team environment, and a good sense of humour are essential.

Competence in the following languages and platforms essential: ASP, VB Script, SQL 7/2000, JavaScript, XHTML, XML, XSL, XSLT, W3C Accessibility Guidelines inc. Priority 1,2 & 3, and Microsoft Servers 2000/2003. Knowledge of the following is an advantage: ASP.NET, VB6, PHP, Flash & Action Script.

Package based on ability. On-line applications available at www.logicalminds.co.uk/careers or CVs with references to Sharon Womersley.

LOGICAL MINDS
ENHANCING BUSINESS PERFORMANCE

Leigh House Varley Street Leeds West Yorkshire LS28 6AN
T: 0113 236 1199 F: 0113 236 1188
careers@logicalminds.co.uk www.logicalminds.co.uk/careers

CHEAPEST DOMAIN NAMES IN THE UK

.CO.UK DOMAINS £1.99 PER YEAR
.COM DOMAINS £8.99 PER YEAR

HOSTING £4.49 PER MONTH
500MB WEBSPACE
100 POP3 ACCOUNTS
4GB BANDWIDTH PER MONTH
PHP AND PERL SUPPORTED
VIRUS SCANNED EMAIL INCLUDED
AUTOMATIC ACCOUNT ACTIVATION
ONLINE CONTROL PANEL

WWW.SWITCHMEDIA.CO.UK
SALES HOTLINE: 0151 236 9111

switchmedia

Hosting accounts carry £9.99 one off set-up fee and must be paid for annually in advance. All prices exclude VAT.

matrixinternet.co.uk

matrix home account

FREE UK OR GLOBAL DOMAIN
1500MB WEBSPACE
7GB BANDWIDTH A MONTH
UNLIMITED POP3 EMAILS
EMAIL VIRUS SCANNER
SPAM FILTERS
5 SUBDOMAIN NAMES
5 MySQL DATABASES
FRONTPAGE EXTENSIONS
PERL5, PHP4, CGI & SSI
PASSWORD PROTECTION
PRE-INSTALLED SCRIPTS
FREE HELP & SUPPORT

just £49.99 per year

matrix value pro account

100Mb space & FREE DOMAIN NAME

Instant Webspace Activation
Website Preview without a domain
Unlimited POP3 Email & Responders
FrontPage Extensions Included
1 MySQL database & control panel
PERL, PHP4, CGI & SSI
Unlimited Password Protection
Graphical visitor statistics
FREE Unlimited Help & Support and many more features ..

just £23.99 per year

WebFusion For Home Users

Webfusion makes it simple for home users

If you're serious about being on the web but also want it all to be seriously easy, then look no further than WebFusion. We will ensure that whatever your web needs are they're fulfilled and always online:

- 600Mb webspace
- 7Gb data transfer (bandwidth) pcm
- 300 POP 3 email boxes
- FTP access
- State of the art control panel
- Reliable Tier 1 infrastructure
- Same Hour Setup
- 24/7 phone & email support
- 30 day money-back guarantee

£7.95 per month

Get online today, visit www.WebFusion.co.uk, or call us on 0870 333 9716 today.

PIPEX

TRANSFER YOUR DOMAIN FOR FREE AND START SAVING TODAY!

.COM .NET .ORG - £7pa

.CO.UK - £2.60pa

including all NIC fees!

www.netcetera.net.uk 0800 2987 214

excludes VAT @ 17.5%

L&M HOSTING

Get a lot more than you paid for

GET 10% OFF HOSTING USE THE CODE:WD96

Quality Web Hosting for Business or Pleasure
All Accounts Come Free With Applications
Domain Registration at Unbeatable Prices
Ecommerce Solutions Available
High Quality Low Cost Web Design
Search Engine Optimization Services
We're Serious About Support! Get Help 24/7!

It's No Wonder We Are Britain's #1

SHARED HOSTING, RESELLER ACCOUNTS & DEDICATED SERVERS

CALL NOW on 0845 311 2898 or visit our website

www.lmhosting.co.uk

SAFFAS *Affordable Web Hosting Solutions*

An amazing service at an amazing price.

> web space (mb)	10	25	50	100	?
> pop3 mailboxes	10	25	50	100	?
> bandwidth (mb)	500	500	500	500	?
Price per year	**£10**	**£25**	**£40**	**£70**	**Ask**

> advanced Control Panel and Admin Centre to manage single or multiple accounts
> feature packed with a wealth of exciting add-ons standard with all hosting packages
> safe & secure with spam filtering, file & password protection, IP deny, anti-hotlinking
> free ecommerce solutions, guest-books, forums and many tools, tricks and scripts
> run cron jobs, access handlers, create mailing lists, trace emails, protect your site

Why pay more for less?

sales@saffas.com, http://www.saffas.com, 0781-628-2991

MySQL and a choice of shopping carts now come as standard with all new accounts.

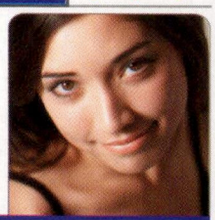
heart internet The UK's Best Reseller Package

Tel: 0845 644 7750

email: sales@heartinternet.co.uk

Resellers Features

- **Host Unlimited Domains**
- **Accounts Setup in Real Time**
- **Own Branded Control Panel,** Choose One of Our 10 Themes or Make Your Own
- **Generic Secure Server**
- **Generic Name Servers or Your Own Domain For a Small Fee**
- **Total Real Time Control**
- **Customer Management Database**
- **Create Your Own Web Hosting Package**
- **Unique Order Integration,** You Can Offer Your Customers Real Time Setup
- **30 Day Money Back Guarantee**
- **100% Uptime Guarantee**



£29.99 per Month

Web Hosting Features

- Unlimited Webspace ▪ Data Transfer ▪ Mail Boxes ▪ Autoresponders ▪ Mailing Lists ▪ Email Forwarders ▪ Catch All Email ▪ Junk Mail Filters ▪ MySQL Databases ▪ FTP Accounts and Sub Domains ▪ Frontpage Extensions
- **Extend Control Panel**
- **Site Builder Software**
- **£300 Software and Free Web Tools**
- **Webalizer Graphical Statistics**
- **CGI Script Library**
- **24 x 7 Technical Support**
- **Too Much To List! Check Out Our Website**

FREE Features

Every account includes the following free features:-

Best Bundle

£300 of Software | 450 Web Site Templates | 300 Banner and Flash Banner Templates | OVER 100,000 Photos, Web Art and Clipart

Loads More! Check Out Our Website

www.heartinternet.co.uk

All major credit and debit cards welcome. Prices exclude VAT. E&OE

MasterCard VISA DIRECT Debit

Dependable Hosting for Unlimited Websites.

Host as many websites as you wish on your choice of UNIX/Linux or Windows 2003 web servers. Quickly set-up new sites and manage existing ones using our industry leading control panel. Define hosting plans for your customers and customise their control panels with your brand enabling you to offer high end, profitable hosting solutions to your clients.

- Host Unlimited Domains for One Flat Fee
- Full ASP, ASP.NET, Perl, Frontpage & CGI scripting
- mySQL, SQL Server & Access Databases
- Unlimited Mailboxes, Forwarders, Auto Responders & Webmail
- Email Virus & SPAM Filtering
- SSL Secure Server
- Graphical Usage Statistics
- Brandable Control Panels for your Clients

Sign Up Now! Instant Activation

Sign up NOW and enjoy 7 days free service. Simply enter the special code WDQ3 at: www.donhost.co.uk or call 0845 226 5566

From £39.99 per month or £399.99 per year

No minimum contract, no set-up fee, terminate at any time.

donhost. power in your hands

Call: 0845 226 5566

Or visit: www.donhost.co.uk

Business packages also available from £8.99/month

Fully managed dedicated servers from £49.99/month

Guaranteed Lowest Prices*
on Inkjet Cartridges & Supplies

Compare our prices! We will beat any UK price!*

Epson Compatible non chipped	Price**	HP Compatibles	Price**	Lexmark Compatible	Price**
Black	£ 0.99	No 25 Colour	£ 8.99	10N0016	£13.99
Colour	£ 1.99	No 26 Black	£ 6.49	10N0026	£14.99
Twin Packs	£ 2.49	No 29 Black	£ 6.49	12A1970	£ 9.99
Standard Chipped	**Price****	No 41 Colour	£ 9.99	12A1975	£10.99
Black	£ 1.99	No 45 Black	£ 5.99	12A1980	£10.99
Colour	£ 2.99	No 49 Colour	£ 9.99	12A1985	£11.99
Twin Packs	£ 3.99	No 23 Colour	£ 9.99	12A1990	£12.99
Latest TO Chipped	**Price****	No 14 Black	£ 7.99	13619HC	£10.99
321\331\441\481 BK	£ 2.99	No 14 Colour	£10.99	13400HC	£ 9.99
322\3\4 C,M or Y	£ 2.99	No 78 Colour	£11.99	15M0120	£11.99
332\3\4\5\6 Colours	£ 2.99	No 20 Black	£ 6.99	15M0125	£12.99
342\3\4\5\6\7\8 Cols	£ 2.99	No 15 Black	£ 6.99	17G0050	£10.99
422\3\4 C,M or Y	£ 2.99	No 17 Colour	£10.99	17G0060	£10.99
442\3\4 C,M or Y	£ 2.99	No 28 Black	£11.99	18L0032	£13.99
482\3\4\5\6 Colours	£ 2.99	No 56 Black	£ 9.99	18L0042	£14.99
Quad Pack	£ 9.99	No 57 Colour	£12.99	**Canon Compatibles**	**Price****
Six Pack	£14.99	No 58 Photo	£10.99	BCI-24 Blk + Col	£ 1.99
R800 Any Colour	£ 3.99	No 27 Black	£10.99	BCI-3\5\6 Black	£ 1.49
		No 28 Colour	£11.99	BCI-3\5\6 Colour	£ 1.49

Free Delivery Online - Same Day Dispatch - All Makes and Models Supplied
100% Guarantee - Established 11 Years - 85% Of Our Orders Come From Referrals

www.box-shift.co.uk

e-mail: sales@box-shift.co.uk

t: 0870 011 2005 **f: 0870 011 2006**

*Terms & conditions apply (See website for details.)**Prices each when purchasing 3 or more. Prices ex VAT @ 17.5%.Prices subject to change.

---

from £15

YOUR OWN DOMAIN MADE EASY

theName.co.uk

VALUE DOMAINS | FORWARDING | HOSTING

HAISOFT

Tel: 0870 116 1420

WWW.HAISOFT.CO.UK

SHARED HOSTING	DOMAIN NAMES	RESELLER ACCOUNTS
FROM £1.49 PER MONTH	FROM £4.99 PER YEAR	FROM £9.99 PER MONTH
100MB OF WEBSPACE	.com	1GB OF WEBSPACE
1GB OF TRANSFER	.net	15GB OF TRANSFER
99.99% UPTIME	.org	99.99% UPTIME
PLESK Control Panel	.info	PLESK Control Panel
	.biz	
	.uk	
	.gb.com	

Haisoft offers web hosting and domain name registration. Tech Support is available 24/7 on the internet, and from 9am to 9pm on weekdays by phone on the above number. Plesk is a trademark owned by sWsoft.

---

more than just

CheapNames

only £4.00 .co.uk

only £9.00 .com

FREE TELEPHONE AND EMAIL TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Honest, value for money domain registration, domain management systems, email packages and fast, reliable web hosting. Fully inclusive price with many more international domains available.

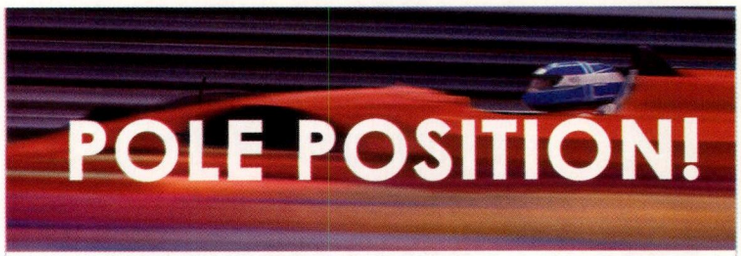
FREE .co.uk domain name
with all new web hosting accounts

call us today on **0870 120 8888**
online **www.cheapnames.co.uk**

web hosting too

	StartUp	StartUp+	Business	Business+	Enterprise	Enterprise+
Webspace	100MB	200MB	500MB	700MB	1GB	1.5GB
POP3 email boxes	5	10	25	50	100	200
Data transfer pcm	2GB	5GB	10GB	15GB	20GB	30GB
Account manager						✓
Secure connection		✓		✓		✓
MySQL, PHP, ASP		✓		✓		✓
FrontPage 2002		✓		✓		✓
NEW Virus & Spam Filter		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Firewall	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Physical security	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24/7 monitoring	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Web-based email	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Full FTP access	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CGI Perl 5.8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SSI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Web site statistics	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Control panel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
25 visual tutorials	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Per Month	£4.99	£7.99	£13.99	£16.99	£21.99	£24.99
Per Year	£49.99	£89.99	£149.99	£189.99	£249.99	£289.99

Namesco Limited. Est. 1996. Britannia Court, 5 Moor Street, Worcester. WR1 3DB.
Prices quoted per annum unless otherwise stated and exclude VAT at 17.5%. Cheques and major credit/debit cards accepted.



	Home User	Power User	Unlimited User	Bulk User
PRICE PER YEAR	£13.99	£23.99	£33.99	£79.99
Free Domain	YES	YES	YES	YES
Disk Space	50Mb	100Mb	UNLIMITED	UNLIMITED
POP3 email	1	10	UNLIMITED	UNLIMITED
True Domains	1	1	1	10
Sub Domains	NO	YES	YES	YES
Win or Linux	YES	YES	YES	YES
Databases	YES	YES	YES	YES

+ Free 3 month trial available.

FOR FULL DETAILS AND INSTANT SIGN UP VISIT:

www.streamline.net

OR REQUEST A CALL BACK: 08709 220699

No hidden costs
No adverts
Free 24/7 support

StreamlineNet

WEB TAPESTRY

Web Hosting
From £35 per year

Reseller Accounts
From £25 per month

Dedicated servers
From £83 per month

Colocation
5 locations across Europe

Domain Names
With no hidden extra costs

ADSL Broadband
Always on Internet access

Leased Lines
High speed lines to your office

Dialup access
Subscription Free Internet Access

Network Consultancy
Help with building your networks

Order Online at www.webtapestry.net
Phone Free 08000 15 17 18
e-mail info@webtapestry.net

Web Tapestry is part of Axamba

axamba
www.axamba.com

Award winning web hosting ...from £13.99 per year

FUTURE UK INTERNET AWARDS 2003
Best Consumer Web Host

Discover better value, service and support with SupaNames

Our full hosting packages start at just £13.99 per year, with a free domain name of your choice

VALUE HOST PRO PACKAGE:

Free domain name, registered to you
35mb fast webspace, based in the UK
CGI, PHP, Perl, C, Python, SSI & MySQL
100 POP3 boxes with free webmail
100 email forwarders & 100 auto-responders
Pre-installed CGI script collection
Graphical visitor statistics
Unlimited password protected areas
FTP access & Frontpage extensions
Exclusive MyPANEL control panel
Unlimited free help and support
Many more features listed at www.supanames.com

ONLY £23.99 PER YEAR & FREE SETUP

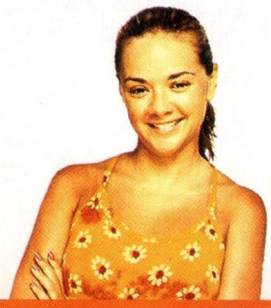
MID HOST PACKAGE:

Free domain name, registered to you
500mb fast webspace, based in the UK
CGI, PHP, Perl, C, Python & SSI
5 MySQL databases
500 POP3 boxes & full virus scanning
500 email forwarders & 500 auto-responders
5 mailing lists each with unlimited members
Free subdomains (e.g. sales.yourdomain.com)
Pre-installed CGI script collection
Graphical visitor statistics
Exclusive MyPANEL control panel
Unlimited free help and support
Many more features listed at www.supanames.com

FROM £39.99 PER YEAR & FREE SETUP

WHY CHOOSE US?

Award winning web host
Prompt & helpful support
Proven, long track record
Free setup on all packages
Great value services guaranteed
Our own exclusive control panel



Please add VAT to our prices

View other packages and join our 17,000+ users at:

www.supanames.com

from £15

YOUR NAME YOUR DOMAIN

theName.co.uk

VALUE DOMAINS | FORWARDING | HOSTING

InternetDotSolutions

Hosting for Secure e-commerce web sites.

Get a padlock for your online store.

Web hosting starts from only £2.99 /Month

NO SETUP FEE

Hosting packages support

PHP, MySQL, ASP, CGI, Perl, ASP .NET, SSL, MS SQL, Customised error pages, Anti spam, Usage statistics, Sub domain and more. Contact us for free advice.

www.internetdotsolutions.com

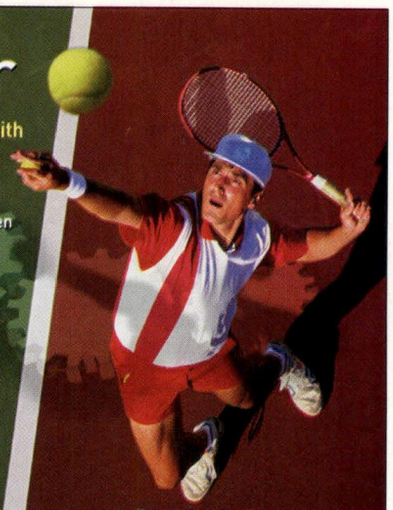
Ace Server

Donhost really has Served an Ace with the Ultimate Dedicated Server!

Our dedicated servers come with skilled technicians to look after your machine, apply security updates and offer help when you need it. Supplied with a suite of software, including our exclusive web based control panel, you are free to run your business whilst we take care of the technical side of things.

- Host Unlimited Sites
- Full PHP, Perl CGI, my SQL, FrontPage, SHTML & SSL support
- Unlimited Mailboxes, Forwarders, Auto Responders & Webmail
- Full Administrative Access
- Management and Support Team available 24 hours a day
- 100% Uptime Guarantee or your money back

Additional Data Transfer £2.50 per GB



Sign Up Now!

InstantActivation

Sign up NOW and enjoy 7 days free service. Simply enter the special code WDQ4 at: www.donhost.co.uk or call 0845 226 5566

From £49.99 per month

NO MINIMUM CONTRACT, NO SET-UP FEE, TERMINATE AT ANY TIME.

donhost. power in your hands

Call: 0845 226 5566

Or visit: www.donhost.co.uk

Shared hosting packages from £8.99/month

Reseller hosting packages from £39.99/month

GET CAUGHT UP IN THE NET.

FROM WEB DEVELOPMENT TO WEB DESIGN, WE'VE GOT THE COURSE TO SUIT YOU TO A TEE.

www.tees.ac.uk 01642 342639 MIDDLESBROUGH

UNIVERSITY OF TEESSIDE

OPEN YOUR MIND

1 million domains

Secure yours today with the UK's largest!

Prices slashed

1 Register your domain now instantly! Get more for your money with UKreg.

ALL INCLUSIVE Great value domain registration with no hidden charges

.co.uk .org.uk .me.uk	.com .org .net	
£2.95 Total price per year	£8.89 Total price per year	.info £8.89 per year .biz £8.89 per year .name £8.99 per year .plc.uk £2.95 per year .ltd.uk £2.95 per year .tv £30.99 per year

Includes all registration fees. Excludes VAT.

FREE with every domain:

- FREE Email forwarding
- FREE Website forwarding
- FREE Dialup internet access
- FREE Web based control panel
- FREE Name server changes

2 Use your domain for professional email & a website. It's quick & easy!

- ✔ Use email right away: you@yourdomain.com
- ✔ Web mail & 100 professional POP3 email boxes
- ✔ Email virus protection included
- ✔ Easy instant website creation tool
- ✔ 500 MB professional web space
- ✔ FREE 24/7 technical support
- ✔ Simple web based control panel
- ✔ PHP and Perl scripting

Home ONLY £3.99 Flat monthly fee — FREE instant setup

Massive discounts for bulk buys — Cheapest .com .org .net in the UK

ICANN Affilias A member of Nominet uk THE UK INTERNET NAMES ORGANISATION .BIZ

Sign up now at

UKreg.com

HOST UNLIMITED DOMAINS

NEW Updated Packages

Single Site Hosting

- 3GB UK Web Space
- 3GB Premium Bandwidth
- Unlimited MySQL Databases
- Unlimited POP3
- PHP 4, CGI, Perl, FrontPage

£99pa

24x7 Phone Support

Multi Site Hosting

- 10GB UK Web Space
- 5GB Premium Bandwidth
- Host Unlimited Sites
- Host Unlimited Domains
- Advanced Domain Pointing System

£20pm or £200pa

- New Updated Packages
- 2 Months FREE
- Virus & Spam Protection
- 99.99% Uptime

Reseller Hosting

- Unlimited UK Web Space
- Unlimited Premium Bandwidth
- Unlimited Spam & Virus Protection
- Unlimited Multi Site Accounts
- Reseller Control Centre
- Custom Control Panel
- Personal Name Servers

£30pm or £300pa

WWW.BPWEB.NET
Multi-Domain Hosting Specialists

Call Now 08707 42 44 74

123-reg.co.uk

Want to make a name for yourself?

It's never been easier or cheaper to have your own domain name or host your website with 123-reg:

DOMAINS:

All domains start from a yearly price of just **9p**†† and include:

- Web based control panel
- Online domain name management system
- Unlimited email forwarding
- Affiliate scheme
- Home page site wizard
- Manage your own DNS
- No transfer out fee
- Plus much, much more!

HOSTING:

Fully functioning web hosting is available from a mere **£1.59** per month† and includes:

- 100MB of web space
- 1500MB data transfer
- 15 mail boxes (POP3)
- Free WebMail
- Plus much, much more!

EXCLUSIVE OFFER

Generate traffic to your website, half price site submission*

* Applicable to hosting accounts purchased through 123-reg. Offer ends 30th September 2004, see website for full details.
† Monthly fee must be paid annually and excludes a one-off setup fee of £9.99.
†† Plus registrar registration fee, see website for full details. All prices excl. VAT. E&OE.

PIPEX Communications

Velnet

Domain Names
.co.uk £9.99
.com £14.99

PLUS
FREE 50MB Web Space
FREE Internet Access
FREE Unlimited Email Aliases
FREE Unlimited POP3 Boxes
FREE Control Panel
subject to availability and set up fee

Virtual ISP - £99
Set Up Your Own Virtual ISP
- yourname.co.uk/com
- unlimited webspace
- unlimited dial-up accounts
- unlimited web space
- unlimited pop3 boxes
- free virtual server
- control panel with each account
- unlimited email aliases
- CGI-BIN access
- access to game server
- domain names at cost price
- host as many accounts as you like
- call share

www.velnet.co.uk E: sales@velnet.co.uk - T: 08707 440151

Ink-Mate.co.uk
Tel: 0870 2000 INK (465)

JET TEC

Buy One Get One Free!*

Ink-Mate.co.uk for: Cartridges, Toners, Ink Refills & Digital Memory!

Canon EPSON HP XEROX IBM Tally brother

Compatible, Original & Remanufactured Cartridges and Toners!
Cartridge prices start from just £2.75 ea. (including delivery and UK VAT)

Ink-Mate.co.uk, 11 Cromwell Street, Lincoln, LN2 5LP, UK
*standard Jet Tec compatible inkjet cartridges (not photo, remans, etc).
Terms & Conditions apply.

UK WEB.SOLUTIONS DIRECT
Reliable Web Hosting Since 2001

BRONZE £19 per year	100MB Fast Web Space 4GB Monthly Bandwidth 20 POP3 Email Accounts 2 mySQL Databases 4 Sub-Domains	**DOMAIN NAMES** £10 for 2 years .co.uk .org.uk .me.uk
SILVER £28 per year	200MB Fast Web Space 8GB Monthly Bandwidth 40 POP3 Email Accounts 4 mySQL Databases 8 Sub-Domains	£8.50 per year .com .net .org .biz .info
GOLD £37 per year or £4 per month	300MB Fast Web Space 12GB Monthly Bandwidth 60 POP3 Email Accounts 6 mySQL Databases 12 Sub-Domains	**RESELLER PLANS** from only £20 per month
PLATINUM £57 per year or £6 per month	400MB Fast Web Space 16GB Monthly Bandwidth 80 POP3 Email Accounts 8 mySQL Databases 16 Sub-Domains	includes... 2GB Fast Web Space 25GB Monthly Bandwidth Host Unlimited Domains WHM / cPanel

All hosting plans include:
PHP | mySQL | CGI | Site statistics | cPanel control panel + Fantastico Deluxe

GET 5% OFF
Hosting & Reseller Plans
with the promo code WD5-04

http://ukwebsolutionsdirect.co.uk
sales@ukwsd.co.uk
All prices exclude VAT @ 17.5%

LAND OF NET Putting Quality First

Self-manage Domains £8.75 per year
.com .biz .co.uk
Free account
Consolidate and manage all your domains
Full DNS configuration and lots more...

Linux Web Hosting £3.95 per month
Redhat Enterprise Server
Generous Web space and traffic
PHP and MySQL
Advanced Control Panel (cPanel)
Fantastico auto-installer and much more...

MS Windows Web hosting £3.95 per month
Windows 2003 Server
Generous Web space and traffic
ASP, ASP.NET
Advanced Control Panel (Helm)
3rd-party components and much more...

Add to your favourite www.landofnet.com

NAMEHOG

Secure Shopping

Sales Hotline
0870 9059 444

Web Hosting from just £30 p.a.

50Mb Fast Web Space, Free Tools
10 POP3 Accounts, Spam Box
Unlimited Aliases, Forwarders
Web Stats / Webmail, PHP, CGI
Control Panel & lots more...

* More packages available...

10% OFF all hosting deals!!!
USE THE CODE: NHWEBD

all prices exclude VAT

Affordable Internet Solutions

http://www.namehog.net

4SUREHOSTING
(www.4SureHosting.co.uk)

Hosting Web & Actinic eCommerce Sites Since 2000

T: 0800 698 3737 - F: 0800 197 3743 - E: sales@4SureHosting.co.uk

Domain Names from £4.25 p.a. for Nominet UK Domains

Nominet UK Domains
£8.50 - 2yr Registration
.co.uk, me.uk, org.uk
.ltd.uk, plc.uk, sch.uk

All registry fees included.
Free web & email forwarding.
NO Release Fees!

from £20 - 2yr Registration
.gb.com, gb.net, uk.com
.uk.net, eu.com, us.com

Global & Alternate Domains
£25 - 2yr Registration
.com, .biz, .info, .org, .net

Linux Hosting Accounts from £4.99 p.m. (£14.97 per qtr)

Email Accounts from £14.99 p.a.
Web Hosting Accounts from £24.99 p.a.
ASP Hosting Accounts from £24.99 p.a.
Actinic Hosting Accounts from £24.99 p.a.

" Monthly, Quarterly and Annual Payment Options Available on Selected Hosting Packages! "

Accounts Include: POP3 Email, Auto Responders, Unlimited Email Alias Usage & All Webmail Enabled. [Perl (cgi/pl), PHP, Python, Server Side Include (SSI), FP2002, ASP ~ MS ASP ver 3 compliant - less Access Db, MySQL, SSL, Full F.T.P. Access, Graphical Site Stats, Dedicated Online Control Panel.] (NB: Some features dependant on hosting package - eg: ASP only available within an ASP Hosting Acc't, FP2002 available on all hosting packages as a free option, Dedicated SSL available upon request for Pro and Ent Acc'ts.)

" Reseller & Affiliate Accounts Available Upon Request! "

We do not (and will not, even for Resellers) oversell Server or Network Resources under any circumstances. Prescribed/Ordered Resource usage is monitored and additional resources put in place well in advance of any potential need. We maintain a minimum 500% x-factor for individual server resources and continually monitor network resources with burstable network resources always available if required. We do NOT throttle bandwidth at any time! - NOCs located in dual locations within London, UK.

" Corporate ~ Managed Accounts & Services Available Upon Request! "

Actinic Site Operators: Accept Credit Cards Securely Without Your Own SSL Certificate And Process The Cards Through Your (Internet Transaction Enabled) POS Terminal.

Actinic Shared SSL Service
from £6 p.m. or £60 p.a.
(RRP £100 p.a.)

Data Centres in London - UK & Our Systems

We operate out of two independantly operational Data Centres, located within the city of London, UK that will provide your site with the quickest route for UK & EU based visitors, as well as super fast transatlantic connections for the Americas.

We operate a large number of servers, from a few remaining Cobalt RaQ's, right through to Dual Xeon servers, sporting a minimum of 4GBs of RAM, connected to our own firewalls, switches & routers and load balancer hardware - We operate our own hardware!

Actinic eCommerce Software - Get Your Shop Online!

ACTINIC

Catalog v7.0.1	Business v7.0.1	Developer v7.0.1	Order Manager v7.0.1
£294 (RRP £379)	£599 (RRP £799)	£1,175 (RRP £1,250)	£140 (RRP £150)

" We Purchase In Bulk - To Give You The Best Deal On Price! "
Upgrade From Previous Versions Of Actinic Software By Purchasing an Actinic Cover Service Subscription - at Sub-RRP.
(visit our website 'Software' section for details.)

Full Version Sales of Catalog or Business come bundled with FREE Actinic Plus Level ~ 6/9mth Hosting & Actinic Shared SSL Services - see website for full details.

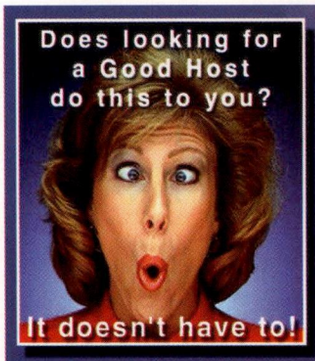
ACTINIC

T: 0800 698 3737
F: 0800 197 3743
E: sales@4SureHosting.co.uk

All Major Credit & UK Debit Cards Accepted
All Prices Exclude VAT @ 17.5%

4SureHosting is operated by Techno-Web Ltd, 122 - 126 High Road, London, NW6 4HY.
Registered Office: 21 St. Thomas Street, Bristol, Avon, BS1 6JS - Co. # 4114416

SHOPPING.NET
SEARCH.SHOP.SAVE
www.Shopping.net



FREE DOMAIN NAME

- 50mb Hosting Package only £12.00 per year
  includes:
  FREE Domain Name
  FREE Tech Support
  and lots more ...
  PHP, CGI, and SSI
  POP3 Mailbox
- Domain Names from £2.55 per year
  includes:
  FREE Web and Email Forwarding
  FREE Domain Parking
  No Transfer Fees

All prices exclude V.A.T

Business Hosting | Ecommerce | Dedicated Servers | Reseller Packages

0871 220 5121
www.compila.com
.::Compila.com

HAISOFT
Tel: 0870 116 1420
WWW.HAISOFT.CO.UK

SHARED HOSTING	DOMAIN NAMES	RESELLER ACCOUNTS
FROM £1.49 PER MONTH	FROM £4.99 PER YEAR	FROM £9.99 PER MONTH
100MB OF WEBSPACE	.com	1GB OF WEBSPACE
1GB OF TRANSFER	.net	15GB OF TRANSFER
99.99% UPTIME	.org	99.99% UPTIME
PLESK Control Panel	.info	PLESK Control Panel
	.biz	
	.uk	
	.gb.com	

Haisoft offers web hosting and domain name registration. Tech Support is available 24/7 on the internet, and from 9am to 9pm on weekdays by phone on the above number. Plesk is a trademark owned by sWsoft.

* * Electric Magic Internet * * *

All standard accounts provide 10Mb of webspace and unlimited e-mail

Dial-up services
Basic at £10 per month for 168 hrs free anytime
Standard at £14 per month for 224 hrs free anytime
Advanced at £22 per month for 308 hrs free anytime

ADSL Broadband - 512k download speed
£21 per month - no contract

Business accounts also available in both dial-up and ADSL broadband

Standard Account
first month 99p

see web page www.electric-magic.co.uk
tel: 0800 0890076 or 0800 0832091

NAMEHOG

Secure Shopping

Sales Hotline
0870 9059 444

Domain Names From

.co.uk / .org.uk only £7.50 (2 years)

.com / .net /.org £8.95 (1 year)
.com / .net /.org £17.95 (2 years)

.info / .biz only £17.95 (2 years)

all prices exclude VAT

£3.75 p.a.
* UK Domains min of 2 years.

Affordable Internet Solutions

http://www.namehog.net

L&M HOSTING

Get a lot more than you paid for

GET 10% OFF HOSTING
USE THE CODE:WD96

Quality Web Hosting for Business or Pleasure
All Accounts Come Free With Applications
Domain Registration at Unbeatable Prices
Ecommerce Solutions Available
High Quality Low Cost Web Design
Search Engine Optimization Services
We're Serious About Support! Get Help 24/7!

It's No Wonder We Are Britain's #1
SHARED HOSTING, RESELLER ACCOUNTS & DEDICATED SERVERS
CALL NOW on 0845 311 2898 or visit our website

www.lmhosting.co.uk

LAND OF NET Putting Quality First

Self-manage Domains — £8.75 per year
.com .biz .co.uk
Free account
Consolidate and manage all your domains
Full DNS configuration and lots more...

Linux Web Hosting — £3.95 per month
Redhat Enterprise Server
Generous Web space and traffic
PHP and MySQL
Advanced Control Panel (cPanel)
Fantastico auto-installer and much more...

MS Windows Web hosting — £3.95 per month
Windows 2003 Server
Generous Web space and traffic
ASP, ASP.NET
Advanced Control Panel (Helm)
3rd-party components and much more...

Add to your favourite www.landofnet.com

500 MB of disk space

6GB of data transfer per month

The cost of this package is
£20* per year price excludes VAT

- FrontPage extensions • Unlimited POP3 mail@yourdomain.com
- Unlimited mail forwarding mail@yourdomain.com • Email is filtered for Spam and viruses
- Unlimited subdomains of your domain name e.g.http://subdomain.yourdomain.com
- Account management via control centre • CGI-BIN • Perl 5 • PHP 4 • SSI (server side includes)
- MySQL Database • phpMyAdmin for MySQL management • SSH access • Full FTP access
- Detailed visitor statistics • Close control downflow air conditioning units
- UPS system and Generator back-up

All of our web servers contain Dual Processors
1GB memory minimum and ultra wide SCSI Hard Disk Drives with raid 1.
Our network consists of multiple 100mbs fast Ethernet connections.

Established 1995
Web Mania
affordable and reliable hosting

ORDER ONLINE NOW
www.web-mania.com • sales@web-mania.com

Established 1995
Web Mania
affordable and reliable hosting

YOUR FREE COVER DISC

On your disc

HOW TO RUN YOUR DISC

WINDOWS
We support Windows 98, 2000 and XP unless otherwise stated

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:
Screen resolution of 1,024 x 768 or higher. Preferably with Macromedia Flash Player 5 or higher, Internet Explorer 5.5 or higher installed.

The CD-ROM interface should autorun once entered into your CD Drive, however, if it does not please follow the instructions below.

1. Double-click 'My Computer'
2. Right-click on your relevant CD drive and select 'Open' from the dropdown list.
3. Read the readme.txt if present to find out which file you need to launch to run the interface. Note this file is normally 'Start.exe', but there may be exceptions.

If you have problems running the interface, all of the contents are available on the disc and can be reached by following the method above and opening the relevant folders (ie Software folder for all of the software).

APPLE MACINTOSH
We support OS 9 and OSX unless otherwise stated

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:
Screen resolution of 1,024 X 768 or higher. Preferably with Macromedia Flash Player 5 or higher, Internet Explorer 5.5 or higher installed.

This CD-ROM interface will NOT autorun when placed into your CD drive. Please follow these instructions below to run this CD.

1. Double-Click on the CD icon that will appear on your Desktop.
2. Read the readme file if present to find out which file you need to launch to run the interface. Note this file is normally 'Start.exe', but there may be exceptions.

If you have problems running the interface, all of the contents are available on the disc and can be reached by following the method above and opening the relevant folders (ie Software folder for all of the software).

MISSING, FAULTY OR DAMAGED DISC
In the event that your CD or DVD has arrived to you faulty or damaged in any way, please contact the address below for a free replacement. Be sure to state the magazine title, issue number and your full name and postal address with any correspondence.

COVER DISC RETURNS
Highbury Entertainment Limited
Paragon House
St Peters Road
Bournemouth
BH1 2JS

Tel. 01202 200200
Email. Subs@paragon.co.uk

Similarly, you can contact this same address if your disc is missing when you purchase the magazine.

HELP
Please note that we do not create the majority of content that is supplied to you on this disc, we merely supply you with the copyrighted compilation of content. Any queries or problems that arise whilst using the disc should be directed at the author of the content and not Highbury Entertainment Limited.

If you are having problems running the disc's interface or have a basic installation question that you would like answered, first check to see if there is a FAQ's section available on the CD. If there is not one present or your question is not answered, please contact our CD Help department.

Email. cdhelp@paragon.co.uk
Tel. 01202 209347 (the telephone service is available from 3pm to 5pm, Monday to Friday)

PLEASE DO NOT SEND QUESTIONS IN VIA POST AS WE ARE UNABLE TO OFFER A POSTAL HELP SERVICE, APOLOGIES FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE CAUSED.

About the CD

Every issue, we scour the Net for the best programs and resources. Here's how your free CD shapes up this month...

Main navigation
Access the main sections of the CD from here

Section title
Each program has its own section for you to browse

Section navigation
Click on the links to move through each section

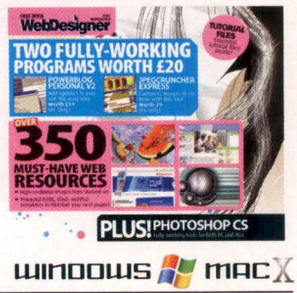
Content links
Here you'll find links to the files on the CD

How it works

Our aim with every issue's cover disc is to create the perfect complement to the issue itself. This means that navigating the CD should be as easy as reading the magazine, with each section designed to mimic a key area. While many CDs throw huge lists of software at you and expect you to find the programs you're interested in yourself, our CD is different. If you want a Dreamweaver extension, therefore, you'll find it in the Dreamweaver section – which also contains the software itself, as well as a host of other Dreamweaver-related utilities. Each section also contains tutorial files to help you better follow the walkthroughs on each of the key programs. Again, you'll find these essential files stored under each main program heading.

The reason for choosing this method of navigation is a simple one – we want to make your disc as intuitive and straightforward as possible. We hope you find the contents of the disc useful for developing your knowledge – that is the point after all!

The *Web Designer* CD is both PC and Mac friendly. We appreciate how many of you Flash users, for example, create your animations on an Apple machine, so we've tried to assemble a list of software as impressive as the PC section of the disc. What's more, for the first time ever, Mac users can navigate the disc through the same interface as the one on the PC side, making things much more intuitive.



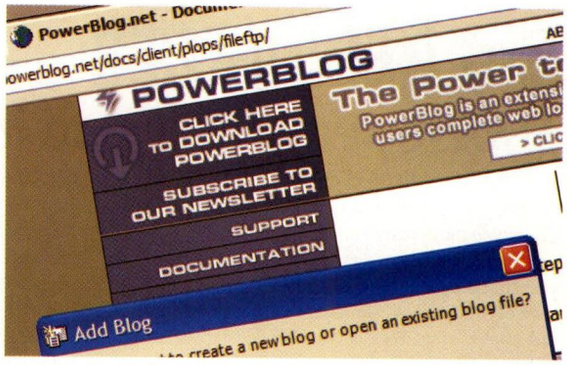
ON THE DISC

Look for the logo

This logo appears on many of the tutorials to tell you that the files you need to follow the walkthrough appear on your disc. You'll also find a handy guide to finding the files.

POWERBLOG V2

Full program worth £11



The blog has grown from being a fad among dedicated site-builders into a tool used by loads of occasional designers. Sharing up-to-date information or news through Web logs is proving to be a great way for site administrators to give visitors a constant stream of fresh content.

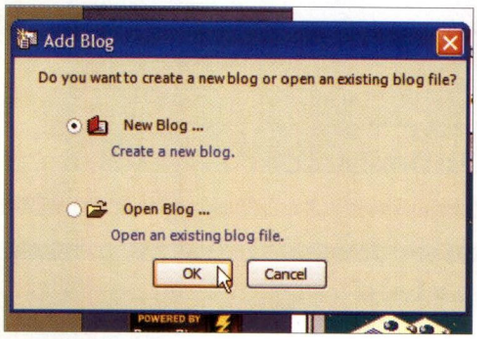
Celebrities and politicians have jumped on the bandwagon, viewing it as the perfect way to stay in touch with their audience. So if you're looking to follow suit and get a personal blog up and running, you might be wondering how best to maintain it.

This month's disc arrives with the perfect solution, because PowerBlog v2 has all the dedicated features you'll need. Not only does it include an intuitive and distinctly browser-like WYSIWYG interface, but it remains incredibly easy to set up on a standard Windows workstation.

Provided you have Microsoft's .NET framework installed, the program will happily sit on the desktop and publish new content to your site with just a few clicks. A multi-window display lists all the posts for sites or blogs you're connected to, while an integrated viewer opens individual articles just like a regular email client. Blogging archives are then stored locally on the user's computer as XML files.

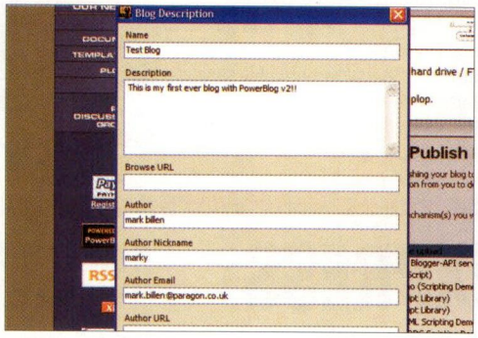
In addition, multiple-publishing modules can be specified so that articles can be sent to the blog using different channels. These 'plops' typically refer to the Blogger API, FTP file upload or scripting mechanisms, and can help give more control over the maintenance of many sites.

Windows 2000 users are advised that Service Pack 1+, Internet Explorer 6.x+ and Microsoft Windows Script are required subcomponents. ■



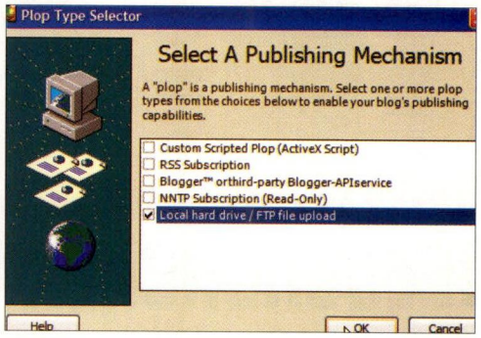
1 ADD BLOG

The quickest way to get started with PowerBlog is to click the Add Blog button on the main dashboard. You'll then get a choice of creating a new blog or opening one from file, so pick the first option and click OK to continue.



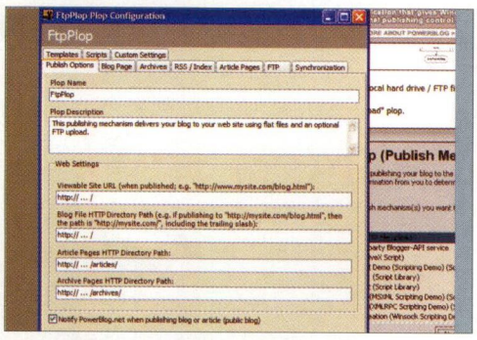
2 NAME THAT BLOG

The next box you see has a series of text boxes that are used to define various parameters for the new blog. As well as submitting a name, you should also enter a short description and any author information required.



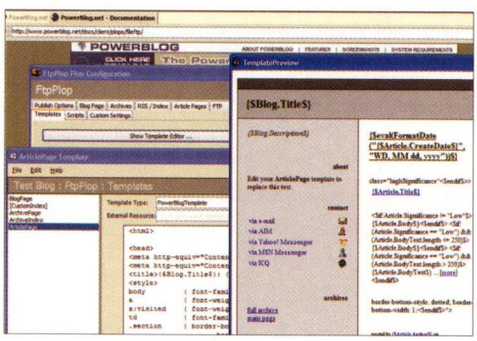
3 GET PLOPPED

After saving the new blog file when prompted, the next stage is about choosing the publishing mechanisms or 'plops'. You can pick as many as you like, but for our example we just want the Local Hard Drive/FTP File Upload option.



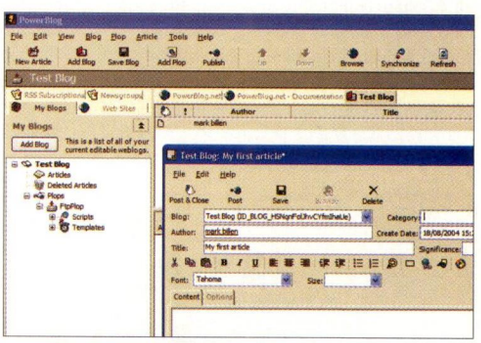
4 CONFIGURATIONS

Once you've filled in the Plop description box, you can set the configuration options in the large tabbed dialog. A number of important Web settings need to be filled out here, including the destination URL for the final blog.



5 BLOG TEMPLATES

Under the Templates tab you can assign a pre-built template to the Blog page or add a custom one of your own. Click the Show Template Editor button and you'll see a list of documents that you can look at by hitting Preview.



6 FINISHED ARTICLE

With the Blog file created, it should be listed in the My Blogs panel. You can navigate this to view or edit modules, and clicking New Article lets you add new posts. A text editing dialog should give you all the word processing tools you'll need.

BIG RESOURCES

Superb templates and images

As Web designers, most of us would like to create sites that would give our visitors everything they want in one place.

Ironically, this is exactly what the team at **www.bigresources.com** has achieved for the good of HTML authors, Flash masters, illustrators and graphic artists. Their development resources span various apps and products, including superb templates from **BoxedArt.com** and equally stunning images from **StockedPhotos.com**. Both are represented on this month's disc by a bumper bundle of files that'll enliven your Web documents and graphics.

Aside from several great animations and vector icons, you'll find Flash intros, buttons and fully customisable templates such as 'Daily Dose'. An excellent PSD interface named 'Orbital Trail' also awaits, while a comprehensive and professional-looking site for eCommerce purposes is well worth a look.

Similarly, the handful of 2400x1600 300dpi photos will be the perfect introduction to the vast library that StockedPhotos is known for. Categories like Architecture, Fashion, Furniture, Religion, Sports and Travel are all available to online subscribers and completely royalty-free.

Readers are also encouraged to take advantage of a 20 per cent discount offer on current products by visiting **stockedphotos.com/SpecialDiscount.php**. Simply enter the promo code 'ev1' and the password 'special' before completing your order to ensure that you don't miss out.

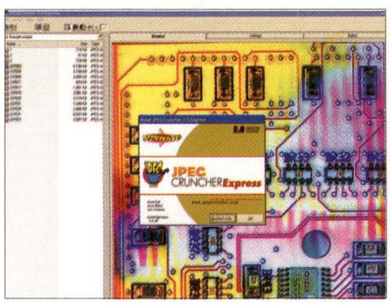
JPEGCRUNCHER EXPRESS

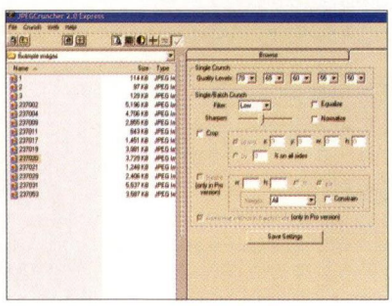
Streamline your Web graphics

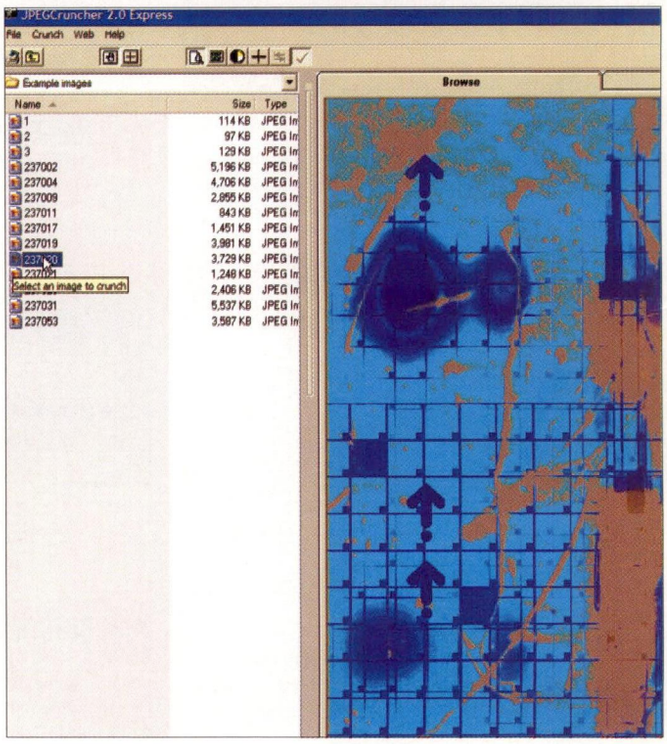
So, you've just put the finishing touches to your new image-tastic site – and realised that 56Kb connections are going to struggle big time. You may decide to ignore this and pray for a broadband-only audience, or consider ripping it all out for a more text-heavy approach.

But before you do anything drastic, this could be the perfect time to get acquainted with Spinwave's handy JPEG Cruncher app. You'll find the Express version under our Bonus Software section, and it does a mean job of compressing Web graphics into more streamlined equivalents.

Within just a few clicks of the foolproof interface you can cut as much as 90 per cent off the download times of BMP, TIF, GIF, JPEG and PICT files. You'll also be able to speed workflow by performing a number of batch operations on collections of files, while the built-in browser facility enables you to track all changes and keep an eye on the relevant image statistics.







Full CD listing

This issue's CD contains two full programs and a wealth of Web design resources. Here's the complete rundown

PC

SOFTWARE
Actinic Business v7 (trial)
Dreamweaver MX 2004 (trial)
Flash MX 2004 (trial)
JPEGCruncher Express
Photoshop CS (trial)
PowerBlog Personal v2

RESOURCES
Stocked Photos
Steve's Web Templates
WebDesignHelper templates
Boxed Art Resources

TUTORIAL FILES
Pages 34-40
Pages 42-44
Pages 48-51
Pages 52-56
Pages 58-60
Pages 62-65
Pages 66-69
Pages 70-72
Pages 74-77
Pages 80-81
Pages 82-83
Pages 84-85
Pages 86-87
Pages 96-102

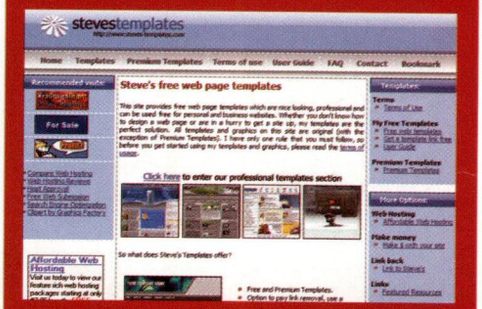
MAC

SOFTWARE
Actinic Business v7 (trial)
Dreamweaver MX 2004 (trial)
Flash MX 2004 (trial)
Photoshop CS (trial)

RESOURCES
Stocked Photos
Steve's Web Templates
WebDesignHelper templates
Boxed Art Resources

TUTORIAL FILES
Pages 34-40
Pages 42-44
Pages 48-51
Pages 52-56
Pages 58-60
Pages 62-65
Pages 66-69
Pages 70-72
Pages 74-77
Pages 80-81
Pages 82-83
Pages 84-85
Pages 86-87
Pages 96-102

STEVESTEMPLATES
www.steves-templates.com



There's a lot to be said for URLs that are exactly what they say they are. No prizes for guessing that **www.steves-templates.com** is essentially a collection of templates from a guy called Steve – but that's not all.

As well as serving up a superb range of free customisable HTML templates, of which five examples wing their way onto this month's CD, there are also some really affordable commercial alternatives to choose from. All have an attractive graphical look and are styled to fit a whole host of apps, including eCommerce, online portfolios, news provision and straightforward home pages. Lucky buyers also gain instant access to a plethora of quality resources such as high definition icons, graphics, fonts, clipart, sound effects, 3D objects and Flash buttons.

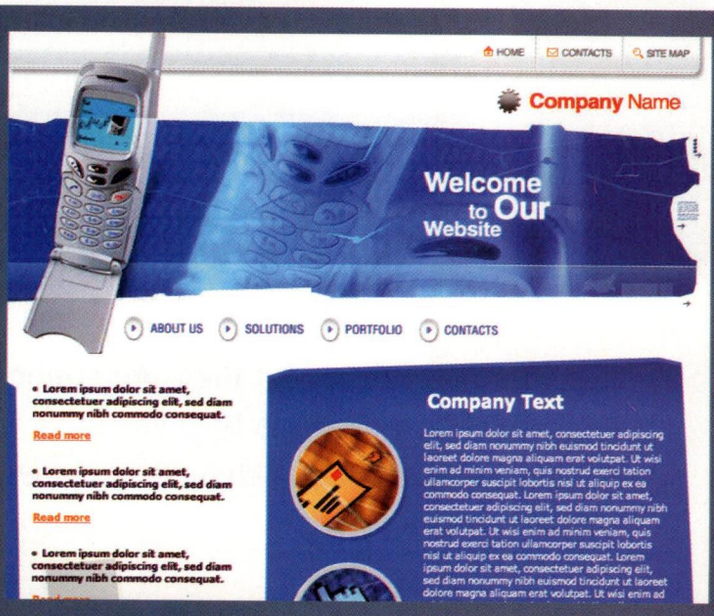
WEBDESIGNHELPER TEMPLATES
www.webdesignhelper.co.uk

There's definitely something ironic about *Web Designer*'s willingness to shower every disc with stacks of great resources. We seem to spend most of the magazine telling you guys exactly what you need to do great things from scratch, only to hand over all the pre-built goodies you could hope to get your hands on.

This selection of ready-made pages from the generous folks at **www.webdesignhelper.co.uk** only goes to show that when the thought of wading through HTML code, Flash animations and a glut of graphics applications gets too much, you can always rely on others.

We've got a set of 15 to get you started, although any visitors to the site will surely be impressed enough to pick up more from their incredibly affordable range. Each and every one can be edited and styled in Dreamweaver, Frontpage or Homesite, while the embedded images can easily be reworked in Photoshop where necessary. Not that it should be: all have been decked out in a wonderfully graphical style which not only catches the eye, but lends itself beautifully to a whole range of different site applications.

Subtle swathes of background colour and effective use of digital photography make them ideal for corporate presences, product catalogues, online shop fronts, personal pages or even auction sites. What's more, all the necessary page resources are bundled with them, so integration into an existing URL or as a basis for a brand new domain should prove no trouble whatsoever.



FINALLY... IT'S HERE!

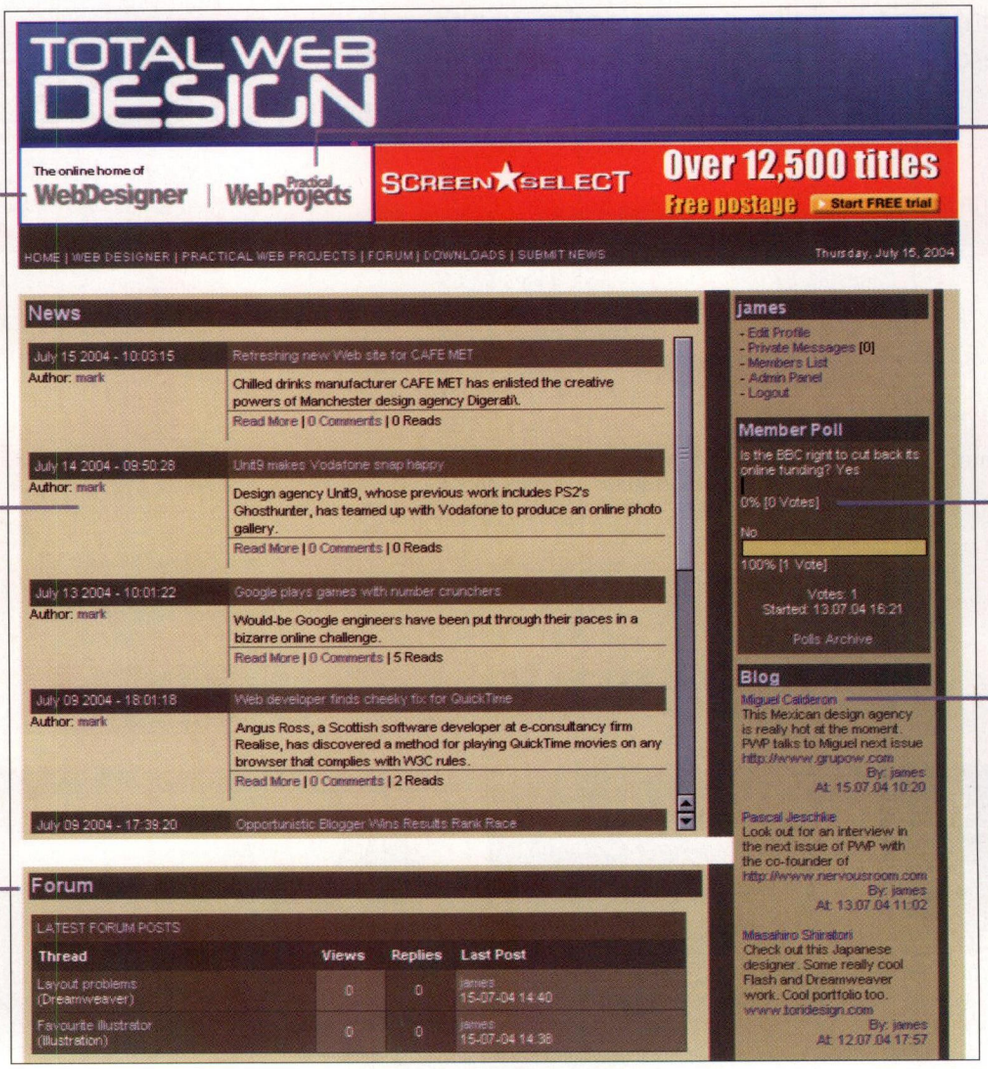
YOU'VE BEEN GAGGING FOR IT FOR YEARS – NOW *WEB DESIGNER* IS ONLINE AT LAST. LOAD UP YOUR BROWSER AND GET DOWN TO OUR NEW SITE FOR THE ULTIMATE IN WEB DESIGN NEWS, ADVICE AND RESOURCES

Take a look at what's inside our great new site, Total Web Design

Web Designer
Visit *Web Designer*'s new online home. Here you can pick up articles you may have missed, download tutorial files and subscribe online to get every issue of *WD* delivered straight to your door

News
Find out what's going on in the world of Web design as we provide you with the latest breaking stories every day

Forums
Sound off about the latest developments in the Web design community and pick up advice on using packages such as Photoshop, Dreamweaver and Flash from here



Practical Web Projects
Find out more about our sister title, *Practical Web Projects*. Check out PDF articles, download project files or subscribe to the magazine here

Polls
Get your views heard as we survey visitors on the issues that matter to the Web design community

Blog
Want to big up a cool piece of design work or recommend a brilliant site you've stumbled across? The Blog section is the place where it's all happening

- Ask for help, check out the competition, or just show off in the packed forum
- Essential downloads to help you build better Web sites in a range of programs
- Updates on the latest Web design news from around the world as it happens

check us out now at
www.total-web-design.com

TOTAL WEB DESIGN

NEXT ISSUE
WEB DESIGNER 99 ON SALE 14/10/04

DREAMWEAVER EXTENSIONS

Discover the add-ons you can't afford to live without, and learn about the secret plug-ins that will empower you to create better Web sites today

- Achieve stunning site effects with the click of a mouse button
- Get professional results quickly and easily with the best plug-ins
- Find out the essential extensions you need to install right now

PLUS

- Fashion a stunning music sequencer entirely in Flash
- Build dynamic sites with our guide to ColdFusion
- Generate professional product display sites using vector art

WebDesigner

Issue 99 on sale 14 Oct 2004

RESERVE YOUR COPY TODAY

Dear Mr/Mrs Newsagent,
Please put me aside a copy of *Web Designer* issue 99 when it comes out on 14 October 2004

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Telephone number .....

To the newsagent:

Web Designer is published by Highbury Entertainment Ltd (01202 299900)

>Close

Image: Gipsy Life
Creator: 38one
URL: www.38one.com

38one's 'Gipsy Life' is said to be directly influenced by artist Denis Radenkovic's travels. Scenes from his home town of Belgrade, with its gipsy children selling flowers or playing traditional folk music, are well reflected in the vibrant theme. "I wanted to design something to reflect the essence of gipsy life and get past the bad reputation they sometimes have. In order to achieve this I used strong colours together with other elements." Adobe Illustrator was used to produce the shapes and Adobe Photoshop to achieve the colour effects.

1 million websites make us the UK's Number 1 host

2 Months FREE when you pay annually

Starter
£1.99
Flat monthly fee + VAT

- 15 web mail and POP3 mailboxes
- 100 MB space for your website
- Full FTP access
- Works with any domain
- 24/7 technical support
- Unlimited traffic to your site

Free Site Builder
Easy website creation tool included

FREE instant setup

Home Pro
£8.99
Flat monthly fee + VAT

- 300 POP3 mailboxes and web mail
- Email virus protection
- 1 GB web space
- Windows 2003 or Red Hat Linux
- ASP, PHP, Perl and CGI scripting
- Easy website creation tool
- Graphical site statistics tool
- SSH secure shell access (Linux)
- Unlimited traffic to your site

Microsoft Windows Server 2003

FREE instant setup

Business
£14.99
Flat monthly fee + VAT

- Unlimited POP3 and web mail
- Email virus protection
- 2 GB web space
- Windows 2003 or Red Hat Linux
- ASP, PHP, Perl and CGI scripting
- FrontPage Extensions
- Graphical site statistics
- ODBC database access
- SSH secure shell access (Linux)
- Unlimited traffic to your site

Load balanced servers

FREE instant setup

ASP.NET
£19.99
Flat monthly fee + VAT

- Unlimited POP3 and web mail
- 2 GB space for your website
- ASP.NET, ASP, PHP, Perl and CGI scripting
- SSL secure web space
- ODBC database access
- Microsoft SQL Server database
- Unlimited traffic to your site

Microsoft .net

Full unrestricted access to the .NET Framework version 1.1

FREE instant setup

Included: all the features you need

INCLUDED ✔ **Build a professional website in minutes**

Get your website **online in minutes**, using our **easy** website creation tool. Or use your favourite design software, with **FTP** or **FrontPage Extensions**.

INCLUDED ✔ **Windows 2003** or **Linux**

Get the most from **ASP** and **ASP.NET**, with the latest **Windows 2003.** Or for advanced **PHP** and **Perl**, choose Red Hat **Linux**.

INCLUDED ✔ **Professional email**

Read and write email anywhere, with **easy web mail** or **your choice** of POP3 client. Get maximum **security** with spam and virus **protection.**

FREE ✔ **24/7 technical support**

Expert support **all day**, **every day**. Our technical experts are available by phone or email for friendly, accurate advice.

NO TRICKS ✔ **100% satisfaction guaranteed**

Don't pay for **setup**, it's **free from Fasthosts!** We also offer you a **30 day money back guarantee**. Up front pricing with **no hidden charges.**

✔ **Ultimate uptime & speed through UK bandwidth**

We've teamed up with two of the **UK's major carriers**, to make your website one of the net's fastest! Unlike our competition, we **connect** your site directly to the **UK internet backbone**.

Advanced extra features

- **Virus scanning:** we kill viruses before they reach your machine.
- **Web scripting:** ASP, ASP.NET, Perl, PHP, and CGI.
- **MatrixStats:** full real time information about your site's visitors.
- **Spam filtering:** block, filter and control email spam.
- **Load balancing:** your website on multiple servers for maximum uptime.
- **Broadband:** add low cost, high speed internet access, up to 2 Mbps, to your hosting.

.net BEST BUY www.netmag.co.uk

Sign up today

fasthosts.co.uk

or call ***0870 888 3774***

fasthosts

Simply...the better choice

FEATURE RICH, HOSTING, EMAIL AND DOMAIN SOLUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR USERS AT ALL LEVELS

Best Value Hosting

INCLUDED WITH EVERY HOSTING PLAN AT NO EXTRA COST:

- **THE SIMPLY GUARANTEE**
  For Maximum Peace Of Mind
- **ONLINE CONTROL PANEL**
  For Complete Account Management
- **FREE EXPERT SUPPORT**
  By Telephone & Email
- **POWERED BY THE SIMPLY.NET NETWORK**
  For Maximum Uptime

SMALL OFFICE HOME OFFICE PLAN
Unlimited Email Addresses
10 POP3 & WebMail Accounts
FrontPage 2002, CGI SSI & PHP4
250MB Fast Web Space
3,000MB Data Traffic Per Month

£5.99 PER MONTH

SIMPLY DESIGNER PLAN
Host 10 Domain Names
FrontPage 2002 & SSL Server Per Domain
200 POP3 & WebMail Accounts
CGI, SSI, PHP4 & ASP
1000MB Fast Web Space
20,000MB Data Traffic Per Month
10 MySQL Databases

£19.99 PER MONTH

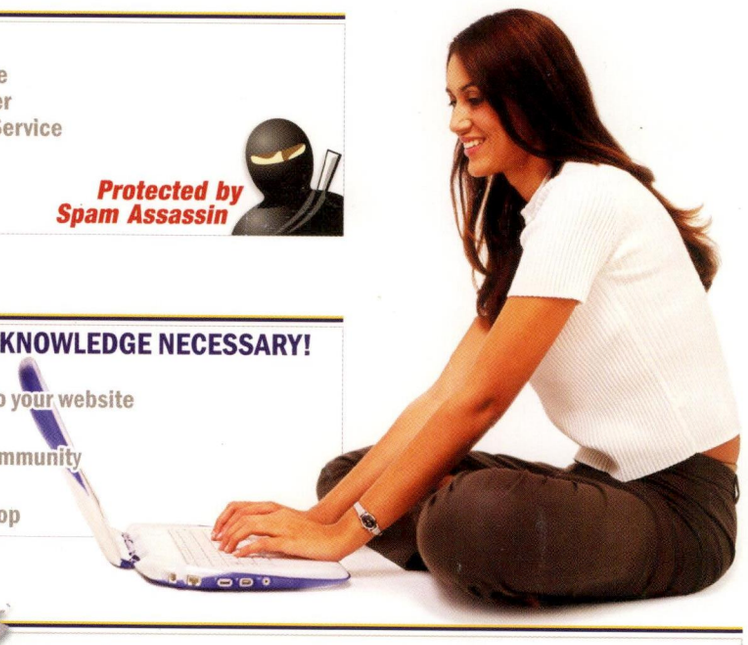
All email & hosting plans payable annually: Set-Up fee - £9.99 + VAT applies

Quality Email Plans

- 100 POP3 Email boxes
- 20 MB space per mail box
- Spam Assassin & MAPS Protection
- Catch All Email Forwarding
- Online Control Panel
- Unlimited AutoResponders
- Unlimited Mailing Groups
- Unlimited WebMail
- IMAP or POP3 Mail Service
- SMTP Outgoing Mail Server
- Secondary Mail Back Up Service

from: £3.99 p/m

Protected by Spam Assassin



Free Website Tools

READY TO INSTALL APPLICATIONS - NO PROGRAMMING KNOWLEDGE NECESSARY!

PHOTO GALLERY
Display your digital pictures online

CONTENT MANAGEMENT
Create a content rich site from your browser

GUEST BOOK
Allow your site's visitors to leave comments

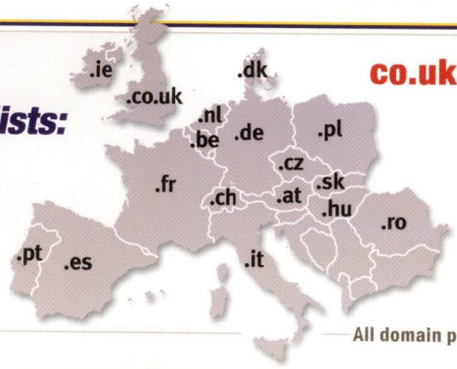
CHAT
Add a Chat-Room to your website

FORUM
Create an online community

ECOMMERCE
Create an online shop

Domain Names

The European Domain Specialists: Protect your trading and brand names across Europe...



co.uk me.uk org.uk only £2.89 PER ANNUM

com net org only £8.99 PER ANNUM

biz info us only £9

All domain prices per year - Minimum 2 year te

simply.com

www.simply.com

TEL: 0870 121 7661
EMAIL: SALES@SIMPLY.COM

SIMPLY.COM LTD . Enigma Commercial Centre . Malvern . WR14 1JJ . UK